

A R G A L;

OR THE

SILVER DEVIL.



A R G A L; *R*
OR THE
SILVER DEVIL,

BEING
THE ADVENTURES OF
An EVIL SPIRIT.

Comprising a series of interesting Anecdotes in public and private Life, with which the Demon became acquainted in various parts of the World, during his confinement in the Metalline Substance to which he was condemned,

RELATED BY HIMSELF.

*Totam
Mens agitat molem, et magno se corpore miscet.*

VIRGIL.

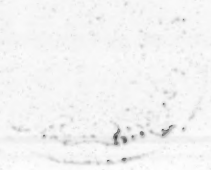
*Diffus'd throughout the mass, one active soul
Pervades each part, and animates the whole.*

D U B L I N:

PRINTED BY ZACHARIAH JACKSON,

N^o. 5, NEW BUILDINGS, SACKVILLE-STREET.

1794.



C O N T E N T S.

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Being an epistle prefatory, admonitory, and dedicatory, addressed to many who will approve, but more who will disapprove of this book, from the Editor—and first of the last. i

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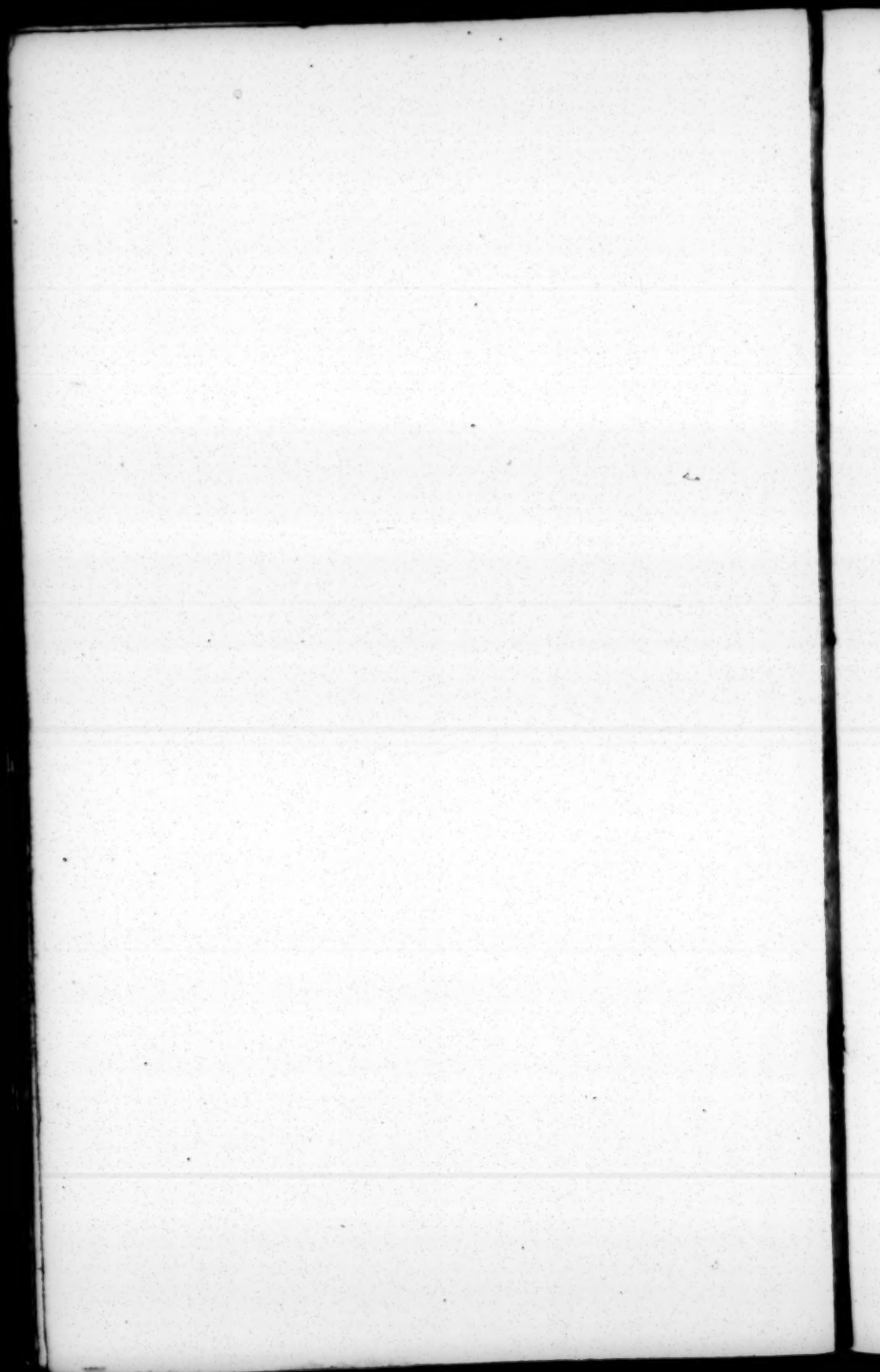
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P R E F A C E.

Being an epistle prefatory, admonitory, and dedicatory, addressed to many who will approve, but more who will disapprove of this book, from the Editor—and first of the last.

THOUGH prefaces are often detrimental to the pleasure the reader expects to receive, from the perusal of books of entertainment, frequently destroying the satisfaction resulting from that attentive curiosity, (the raising and gratifying of which is the principal, and too often the sole benefit to be reaped from such temporary unsubstantial works) by an anticipating information of what it *is*; yet in the present case, to obviate the disappointment which may befall many a fair angel, who unawares may solicit a tete-a-tete with the Silver Devil; it may not be amiss to say what it is *not*. The various classes of readers are so numerous, that to discriminate them would take up more room and time than we can allow. Suffice it to say, the end proposed by all is individually the same—to be entertained. But while this is the grand object, there may be some collateral, and more important advantages arising there-

therefrom, besides the instructions contained in a work itself, which inculcates a knowledge of mankind, whether true, or only the production of inventive fancy, provided it is natural; for the latter can only be pernicious in its effects where it tends to a misrepresentation of human nature, whereby youth are misled, and induced to expect it different form what they will find. And this will be the case whether she is described more favourably, or disadvantageously, than she deserves; in the first instance, they will be miserably disappointed, in the expectations of excellence with which they will never meet, and in the second, they will imbibe a degree of misanthropy, which will occasion them to see every thing thro' the medium of disapprobation and disgust.—Exclusive of this, where these kind of performances do not too much engross the mind, they may certainly be serviceable to those, whose avocations are of such a nature as to leave many heavy hours on their hands, and who have not a capacity, or education to relish those of a nature more solid and abstruse; while those who have no employment, and yet are from particular circumstances constrained, to submit to an irksome confinement, may beguile the tedious time which might otherwise be spent in vain repinings at their solitary fate. Others again whose finances will not permit them to partake, so often as they could wish, of recreations abroad, may think themselves happy they can for a small expence, furnish themselves with amusement at their homes. To our fair students then, we now address

dress ourselves, of every denomination; from her of ton, who while she is detained two hours in the now necessary, but lamentable, distortion of all that is visible of one of her most beautiful ornaments, under the hands of a fellow, who, on any other occasion, she would be apprehensive, would defile her simplest beauty by a single touch, peruses the produce of her circulating literary fund; to her who takes it up, when her mistress sallies forth, to treat the public with a distant view of those charms, her dresser nearly scanned before, with her right hand rocking the cradle, while her left some modern Pamela contains, fraught with instructions how to obtain a cradle of her own on honourable terms, and eke the smiling dormant inhabitant within; it is you we think it incumbent on us to inform, that in the following pages you will find—No cross papa with his Phenix of a daughter, so beautiful, mild, benevolent, dutiful, in spite of persecution, who when she is distressed, prefers starving in a garret on the miserable pittance she earns, by painting fan-mounts, to affluence with a man, who does not, in her opinion, equal another, that has treated her with contempt. No heroine who most heroically revenges herself upon herself, for the supposed infidelity of her lover, and foregoing the pleasures suitable to her age, mortifies in the country by a constant round of visits, among the dirty inhabitants of a dirty village, immersed in medicines, beggary and salves. No sprained ankles, convenient hospitable cottages, neat old women, with their wonderful daughters, harpsichords,

chords, books, &c.—No friends at first sight, with the friends of friends, and their extraordinary acts of friendship, from whom you are to endure a triple recital of the same dull, stupid, improbable, uninteresting fact, while your imagination is to be chained to the 'foot of the postman, who carries the important intelligence from miss to miss. No counterpart lover for this unparalleled belle, who stops by his single interposition, a coach and runaway horses in its full career, or plunges into the water, to extricate persons whom he never saw before. No duels wherein the proper party always recovers; anonymous letters sure of detection, uncles dead in the first volume forgotten in the second, with their resurrection in the third; convenient deaths of mismatched couples to accommodate the hero and heroine of the flimsy tale, with the rest of that preposterous mass of incredible trash, with which the monthly presses groan. Ye, therefore who delight in such absurdities, wear not out your pattens in trotting to the shop for this publication; it will not do; for though you will find love therein, it is confined too much within the bounds of probability, to suit your tastes, and though it is the adventures of an inhabitant of the *nether* world, the matter recorded therein (seldom the case with modern tales) favoureth for you too much of *this*.

Not that we would be understood, hereby to mean an indiscriminate reprobation of all the novels which are published. There are many admirable

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mirable performances which may come under the same denomination, such as—the Undutiful Daughter, The Journey to London, or Memoirs of the Selby Family, with many others which afford most excellent lessons, and point out the dangerous quicksands on which the light and full canvassed bark of juvenile expectation often strikes. Also such are the Benevolent and Admirable Quixote, Gabriel Outcast, &c. with the works of Mrs. Brooke, Misses Burney, Lee, Reeve, &c. which do honour to their sex, and develop the feelings of the human heart. It has of late been the custom to single out some historical anecdote, and work it into an epistolary novel. But as there are very few political personal facts, which afford sufficient matter for the quantity of paper to be filled, the deficiency has in many cases been supplied by a number of superfluous sentimental uninteresting letters; insomuch that there is an instance of a catastrophe being told four times over, before the conclusion of the work, which at last is left but incomplete; nor have such letters for the most part, the merit of shewing how different dispositions are affected by the same event, as they are generally a repetition of lamentations or rejoicings, mere variations of *alasses!* *ohs!* and *ahs!* One of the best historical novels yet extant is that of Perkin Warbec, wherein some intrigues of state are laid open and enlarged upon, in a style which plainly shews the ability of the writer, while it excites the attention of the reader, and gives him the highest pleasure from the beginning to the end. But the masterpiece of this class

class is the *Recess*, in which Miss Lee has so combined truth and fiction, that though she has had recourse to a creation of her own, bringing forwards persons and events whose existence never could be proved ; it is done with such admirable address, growing as it were, out of well known historical facts, which received an additional beauty from her pen, that nothing of the kind to equal it, has ever yet been seen, nor perhaps any thing to exceed it, hereafter will appear.

To attempt the promotion of virtue by inconsistent and preposterous tales is injuring her cause, representing men and things different from what they are in real life. For when those who undergo a temporary deception, arrive (sometimes by fatal experience) at the knowledge of the truth, they will be too apt to run into the opposite extreme, and finding human nature not so perfect, when they compare the incidents of life with the pious trumpery they read, they will not give her credit for the virtues she may really claim. Thus the dam of illusion being removed, the current of passion sweeps all before it, and the force of its operations will be, in proportion to the colouring of those misrepresentations, with which they have been deceived, through volumes of exaggerated character and celestial love, ending in a miraculous union, the grand object of nine novels out of ten, and which few authors venture either to deviate from, or go beyond ; or if they do, it is generally to exhibit some overstrained unnatural conduct in the marriage state, and shew the husband

band and wife, acting in those characters, with equal absurdity, they did in those of the fantastic mistress and her silly swain.

We will now bespeak the favour of readers of a different class, and endeavour to interest them in our behalf, by a short recital of the many perils we have encountered, for the entertainment of such as we shall be fortunate enough to entertain. And when they come to understand that we have been near suffering shipwreck, confined in a foreign gaol, narrowly evaded the gallows, with other hair-breadth escapes for this laudable purpose, we doubt not gratitude will induce them to view our imperfections with a lenient eye, and praise us where they can.

Having occasion to take a journey as far as Canterbury, and being in want of a travelling trunk for the purpose, I purchased one in Long Acre, and as I was depositing my apparel therein, I found it was lined with a manuscript, written in a very crabbed, and uncommon hand. Curiosity prompted me, to spend the intermediate time, while I was waiting for some linen, in endeavouring to decipher the contents; which having with infinite trouble at last performed, I was actuated with an insurmountable inclination, or rather rage, to obtain the rest. For this purpose I ran to the trunk-maker, and entered into a treaty with him, for so much of the remainder as was in his possession. This was rather an expensive business, as I was obliged to purchase

chase nine new trunks, and pay for the lids and linings of seven more. The vehicle maker in perfect good humour with me, from the unusual bargain we had made, then informed me, that about two hours before I came to his shop, he had sold several large cases, and boxes, to some French gentlemen, who had set off immediately for Calais; as this was the road I was going, I determined to proceed, and try if I could not get an opportunity to copy the linings, with leave of the proprietors, or their servants, having engaged him in the mean time to recover as much of the manuscript as he could, for which I agreed to pay him by the page. I then set off, and having dispatched my concerns at Canterbury, proceeded with the utmost speed to Dover, and arrived just as the object of my pursuit had quitted the pier; I was therefore obliged to embark in another packet boat, and landed at Calais, in a quarter of an hour after it; whether that my mind being so engrossed with the purpose of my voyage, occasioned such an inattention to what was transacting on board, that I was totally absorbed in the contemplation of the methods I should pursue to gain my ends, I attracted the notice of the passengers, I cannot say, but I soon found myself regarded during the passage, by the rest of the passengers, in a very unfavourable light, as one of deep design, (particularly by some Frenchmen) and engaged in some affair of no commendable sort; to mend the matter, on my discovery of this, I thought it necessary to rouse myself, and enter into conversation,

tion, but still intent on my favourite object, I made some particular and close enquiries, concerning the French passengers in the other boat, who were persons of the first distinction, and strong Anti-Revolutionists; in consequence of this, I was observed with a suspicious eye, by all parties, on our landing on the quay, and every action watched, whence I immediately repaired to the Custom-house; conscious of the innocence of my designs, I paid no regard to observations, too particular to escape my notice; and instead of being more circumspect in my demeanour, I was imprudent enough to apply to a servant of the French passengers, (their rank precluding all application to themselves) for leave to copy something on the inside of the trunks, which had just been opened by the Custom-house officers, for which I offered a handsome gratuity. As I speak very bad French, I make no doubt I expressed myself so badly, as to render myself obnoxious at this critical juncture. The valet staring in my face and exclaiming *Sacre Dieu*, disappeared in a twinkling, but presently returned with a file of soldiers, by whom I was immediately seized and safely lodged in the town jail. The next morning I appeared before the governor, where the man formally deposed, that I had offered *beaucoup de guinea* to induce him to let me copy the papers in his master's trunks, with an intent *sans doute* to betray the contents to the insurgents, against the power of the crown, (of which it happened there were several of a very important nature) a crime, which nothing
but

but a halter could expiate in France. I now stood in a very dangerous predicament; it was with the utmost difficulty I could get heard by an interpreter, when on explaining my intentions, and producing some of the unused manuscript, which I had procured of the trunk-maker, and brought with me to amuse myself, in deciphering, and which exactly corresponded with the characters on the lining of the trunks and cases, I was relased; but this was not all, it most fortunately happened, that the principal person of the company was a scientific nobleman, and a collector of rarities of every denomination; he therefore very politely offered, (and prevailed with his companions to do the same) to give me an opportunity of copying what I pleased, requesting if I could complete the book in my researches, to have it transmitted to him, (a request I would gladly comply with, but he is not capable of reading it, having met with an accident which deprived him of his head) I therefore went to work, and the gentlemen having occasion to wait at Calais for a week, I was supplied with a trunk at a time, emptied for the purpose, and finished by transcripts before the day allotted for their departure had arrived, after which I re-embarked for England, when we met with such a violent gale of wind in the passage, it was with the utmost difficulty we made our native land, several leagues distant from our destined port.

On my arrival in London the first place I went to, was the trunk-maker, who had been so diligent in my absence, as to recover almost the whole of the manuscript, but all endeavours to find the author proved ineffectual, nor could we discover whether he was alive or dead ; was I to tell you the history of my progress in search of the remainder, it would of itself make several volumes, according to the present mode of compilation. I was once very near embarking for America, three times obliged to comply with avaricious demands of sordid pawn-brokers, besides a variety of presents to chimney-sweepers, pastry-cooks, grocers, and other shop-keepers, who had enveloped their goods in the mutilated sheets of the object of my search ; and last Lord mayor's day, imprudently rushing into the kitchen at the mansion-house, I snatched off six of my best chapters, condemned to be roasted by a brisk fire, on the revolving magisterial haunches, as preservatives of fat : So daring an act, against the *intestinal* welfare of the state, was sure to exasperate all concerned, accordingly the cook brandishing a long knife, immediately prepared to revenge the disarrangement I had caused in his culinary system, and the depredations I had made on his convivial art. But tho' surrounded by twenty myrmidons, I saved myself under the protection of a shield, which tho' not a thousandth part so big as the seven-fold shield of Ajax, was infinitely superior in its defensive powers, as it not only preserved me from my adversary's blows, but even disarmed him soon of his inclination to do me hurt ; for on the display of a single guinea he

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conde-

condescended to hold an amicable parley, when ordering his troops to halt, we entered into a conference; the event of which was, I was suffered, on depositing another crown for the benefit of his subalterns, unmolested to vacate his garrison, regaled with a mess of admirable gala soup, in full possession of my greasy prize. This was the last trouble I encountered, the benefit of which you are now about to reap, though I do not think you are yet in the possession of the whole, which, having a clue to go by, I shall endeavour to obtain. Possibly you may think, I have been at much pains to little purpose, but I hope you will take into consideration, the great fatigue and expence I have undergone; especially if it should for a few hours, beguile you of that temporary apathy, to which we are all liable, and against which the strength of reason is often opposed in vain, and the armour of philosophy an ineffectual defence. Nor are we without hope, of accomplishing this desirable end of all our labours, being thereto encouraged by the great variety of matter herein contained; and the elucidation of certain transactions, both of a public and private nature, which, though known in general, have never been so particularly, and accurately delineated before.

ARGAL,

A R G A L;

OR, THE

S I L V E R D E V I L.

C H A P. I.

Being an introductory one.—Argal makes his first appearance with some very unfavourable marks of distinction.

IN a back garret, at one of the worst houses, in one of the narrowest lanes near Houndsditch, occasionally resided two of the disciples of Moses, Messieurs Shadrack Solomons and Abednego Manasses. A sorry bed, two old arm chairs, and a strong oak table, composed the furniture of the room; to the latter was fixed a large vice, near the chimney was an anvil, on one side of which was a strong pair of sheers, and in the corner stood a large crucible. It was in the month of November about five o'clock in the evening, when the wretched inhabitants

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of this wretched apartment, were seated on each side of the table, on which lay a couple of files, a graver, a small quantity of gold dust, two pair of scales of different dimensions, a pot of porter, some bread and cheese, with pipes and tobacco; they seemed to be sitting in silent expectation of some company, while they whiffed in concert, making periodical applications to the provision which lay before them, regarding each other at intervals with a most horrid obliquity of countenance, which threatened to be productive of some argument, on which they were both equally desirous, but afraid to enter; at length Mr. Solomons knocking the ashes out of his exhausted pipe, opened the conference.—‘It does not signify talking, Manasses, I can stand it no longer, I must break.’—‘If you break, Mr. Solomons, what is to become of me?’—‘You must break too.’—‘That cannot be, you know, I broke last month.’—‘Then you must be burnt out—But hark, I hear some of the *people* coming. It is little Sam, with some *goods*.’—The usual signal being made, the door opened and fastened again, there went up to the table, without any ceremony, a little squat fellow, wrapped up in a loose great coat, which, throwing open, displayed a great variety of pockets in the lining, out of which he took a silver mug, four table spoons, a silver cream-jug, a fish trowel, two silver salts, a case of surgeon’s instruments, with three silver watches.

These *goods* (except the latter) were weighed by Shadrack, and by him handed to Abednego, who, after they had gone through the operation
of

of the sheers, threw them into the crucible : the watches were carefully examined by the former, the graver was applied to transform the name of one of them, a new dial plate was affixed, while the cases of the other two were multiplied into a variety of pieces by the sheers, and the works thrown into a box that served as a receptacle for such superfluous commodities. Little Sam then received the wages of his *industry* by weight, according to the previous covenant between him and the gentlemen undertakers in such cases made and provided. Hitherto the business had been transacted with silent expedition, which was at length broke by Mr. Solomon, who asked—‘ if there was any thing more ? ’ to which Sam (after replenishing his box out of the dish upon the table) replied—‘ No, but if he could *speak* with any thing, they should see him again,’ and was departing, when stopping suddenly and seeming to recollect himself—‘ Hold,’ says he, ‘ here is a damned crown which wont pass, you may as well throw it into the smelting pot, and give me what you please, I don’t like the looks of it, besides landlord (who is a scholar, and understands these matters) says as how its *omalous* to keep it in my pocket.’ On this he threw it down, and receiving three shillings worth of halfpence in exchange, departed to exercise his dexterity in the way of his *profession*.

Sam being gone, the Jews standing at the table, their eyes were in the same instant attracted by some extraordinary marks on the crown, no less on account of the subject, than the uncommon beauty of the engraving, which

was of such exquisite workmanship, that it would have baffled the skill of the most eminent artist to have excelled it. It had been refused at several shops, where Sam had offered it, and it operated too forcibly on his sensations, (for he was in some cases a man of *fine feelings*) to look on it with total unconcern, nor indeed was the sensibility of the Levites entirely unaffected thereby. It represented a man pendant on a gibbet, and by certain insignia well known to the inspectors, the malefactor appeared to be a member of the Synagogue. In a silent mixture of horror at the subject, and admiration at the performance, for some minutes they contemplated it, looking alternately at the engraving, and at each other, with a most scrutinizing eye, while they seemed struck with a conscious retrospection of some past transactions, the recollection of which were on this occasion particularly disagreeable, being closely connected with, and preliminary to a catastrophe, similar to that represented on the crown. At length Mr. Solomons looking earnestly in his partner's face—'I think, Abednego,' said he, 'it has a very full beard.'—'Yes,' says the other, 'certainly, and that full beard you mention, is also very picked,' (returning the keen glances of Shadrack) 'Picked,' retorted Solomons, 'may be so, there is also a wart upon the cheek.'—'And a scar under the left eye,' rejoined Manasses.—'Why what the devil,' says Shadrack, (while his eyes began to roll, and his liver-coloured complexion seemed to yield to a feint suffusion of red,) 'you do not mean to insinuate?'—'Not at all, Mr. Solomons, nor you don't

don't mean to suggest ?'—' Not in the least, Mr. Manasses, not in the least.' By this mutual and timely concession, and reciprocal disavowal of ideas which it was very plain each of them strongly entertained, the kindling embers of re-crimination were extinguished. A little further, and the bonds of good fellowship between these fellow-labourers had been broken in twain, and the clasps which fastened the convention of amity had been in the same predicament as the silver in the crucible, liquified by the flames of animosity, to the utter dissolution of the partnership subsisting between Messieurs Shadrack Solomons and Abednego Manasses, refiners, silver-smiths, money-mongers, coin-sweaters, dealers in teas, rum and brandy, exporters of old clothes, receivers of stolen goods, &c. &c. &c. But knowing if they quarrelled, they must, (like man and wife) immediately make it up again, or it would soon appear they had both *been in the wrong* : they stopped short on the brink of a dangerous precipice, and instinctively sensible that the best way to restore peace, was to destroy the cause of dissention, he who was nearest to the chimney, tossed it towards the crucible, but it fell short, and striking on the edge, rolled back again. Three times did they try, and three times did they fail in their attempts to commit it to the flames. At length Manasses, enraged at what he thought a repeated omen of impending fate, snatching it up in a paroxysm of rage exclaimed, ' Hence thou execrable type of mortal infamy, more baleful to mine eyes, than is the Nazaritish sign, hence, and perish in the fire, and as thy substance melts, so may the Christian soul of the
accursed

accursed wretch who first conceived and executed thee, dissolve in everlasting flames.'—With which he rose and threw it with violence into the pot upon the fire, when presently the sound of feet was heard upon the stairs, at which the Jews betrayed marks of the utmost apprehension, when a hollow voice, which seemed to come from the crucible, pronounced—'The beards of the descendants of Abraham shall not be defiled.' At the same instant they with their apparatus were enveloped with a vaporous mist, which rendered them totally invisible to the officers of the police, who soon broke open the door, in consequence of an information they had received at the public office, of certain suspicious appearances in the conduct of the Levites, who now almost petrified with fear, and astonished at what they had heard, yet to find themselves safe, had retired to a corner of the room, nor could they scarcely believe themselves delivered from the hands of the Philistines, who, thinking the birds were flown, retreated without further search. In the mean time, a small column of black smoke issued from the crucible, bending towards the table, which by degrees contracted itself to a point, gradually dispersed, and the crown dropt thereon, to the great astonishment of the beholders, who viewed the whole process of this phenomenon with a mixture of terror and dismay; when the same voice which had announced their safety, addressed them as follows.—'Listen, O ye children of Israel, to the tongue of your deliverer, let the words which he shall utter sink deep into the recesses of your hearts, suffer them to be mollified by what he shall relate. So may your labours

labours be crowned with success, may the flesh-pots of Egypt again regale your nostrils, the portion of your forefathers be increased an hundred fold, and yourselves enabled to return, laden with the abundance of Christian spoil, to the land flowing with milk and honey.'—

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C H A P. II.

He gives an Account of himself. Appears in a political Light, and engages in the service of the Pope.

I AM the demon Ashtaroth, condemned by the inevitable decrees of fate, to suffer for the apparent neglect of which I was not guilty. On the demise of a certain Protestant sovereign, the princes of darkness, ever intent to enlarge the extent of their domain, and that influence which had so long predominated, in the reign of an inhuman sanguinary predecessor, but had afterwards suffered great diminution, conceived hopes of encreasing the former, and re-establishing the latter, on the accession of a weak and indolent successor, born as he was of parents (and ruled by a favourite) who were of the same religion, which had involved the empire in disgrace, lighted up the fires of superstition, and overwhelmed the country with tyranny and desolation. To establish their kingdom on a permanent and sure foundation, revive the days of fire and faggot, for the future emolument of their favourite Antichrist the pope, they concluded nothing could be more effectual, than to give the heir apparent a consort, from a land of bigotry and fanaticism. For this purpose Moloch himself came to Rome and suggested to his Holiness, the idea of a match between him and the daughter of a catholic house, assuming for that purpose the form of a deceased cardinal of the conclave, in whom Gregory had greatly confided,
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and under his semblance he appeared in a vision to the sovereign pontiff. The Pope, who wanted little inducement to espouse a plan which promised such advantages to the Holy See, entered into consultation with the council, and it was resolved, that their emissaries should be instructed to forward the scheme, and to dispose the sovereign to acquiesce. It is necessary to observe, that though the empire had withdrawn all allegiance to the Papal throne, there were an infinite number of its staunch adherents, who, taking advantage of a political toleration, which has ever subsisted in that nation, lived in hopes of some fortunate event, to restore the kingdom of Antichrist. With this view, a secret arrangement of ecclesiastic government was formerly kept up; there were nominal dignitaries of the church, from the first patriarch down to the most subordinate degree.

With a bull of instructions on this occasion, the Pope sent to *his* head of the church, a beautiful consecrated crucifix. It was my unfortunate lot when Moloch returned to the infernal abodes, to be left as his substitute, to promote the consummation of this union; for which purpose, I was ordered to transport my nature in this crucifix, that I might influence the heart of the prince in that behalf, into whose possession, as you will find, I was afterwards transferred. Before I enter on my own, and the adventures I was witness to, previous to the failure of the treaty for the concerted match, I shall just mention to you, that its miscarriage was the cause of all my misery. The event, and the intrigues
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productive thereof are well known. Suffice it to say, it came to nothing, which on earth was attributed to the true political source. But at our court, the whole odium of the disappointment fell on me, tho' I had in vain strained every faculty to accomplish an event, so favourable to our cause. Whether I was counteracted by some more powerful spirit, or whether the good genius of the empire interfered to save it from the calamitous invasion of priestcraft, which in all probability, like an inundation, would have swept away the very traces of those days, which were marked, a long and prosperous reign of liberty and fame, I cannot tell. All my endeavours proved abortive, and I was summoned to give an account of my conduct. In vain did I plead in my defence, my unremitted assiduity to fulfil the purpose of my commission. Lucifer and Belzebub however would have been appeased with a slight imprisonment, but the hellish inveteracy of Moloch, inflamed by the miscarriage of a scheme wherein he had so great a share, and in which he had acted so capital a part, insisted on perpetual confinement. At length the matter was compromised, and he was complimented with the power of prescribing the terms of liberation. My sentence was—*That I should return to the prison from which I came, there to be confined.—That whenever the form of the metal whereof it was composed, should be divided, it was to be at my option, whether my essence should be united, or divided, with absolute power over any mixture, or alloy with which I might be impregnated—I was as usual allowed, to partake of the intelligence of any, or all of the component parts, however distant*

distant from each other they might be.—But I was most inhumanly subjected to feel all the pains, incident to the various transformations I might undergo, whether the effect of malleation, sublimation, dissolution, or otherwise howsoever.—And in this state I was to remain, till I fell into the hands of a Hebrew, whose compassion for my calamities should induce him to drop the tear of commiseration at my fate, while his gratitude for one service I was permitted to render him, inspired him with generosity to forego the advantage that might accrue from the value of any part of my metallic substance, when I was to be freed, and the measure of my penance full.—Attend then to what I shall unfold, and let the blessing of liberty be the reward for the preservation of life.”

CHAP III.

He comes to Court, and becomes successively the property of the Minister, and the favourite.

IT is necessary to inform you (continued the demon) that subordinate spirits, who are stationed in any particular receptacle, for the purpose of executing the commands of their superiors, are attached thereto, so that they cannot roam about, nor quit it on any occasion whatever; their knowledge and interference being limited to a secret influence which does not extend beyond the locality of their material substance: this, when necessary to act in several distant places at once, is suffered to be divided, without any diminution of our ascendant power, always acting by an instigation, imperceptible to the senses of its subject. My present possessor was a person, of all others, most fit for the high department which was allotted to him, in the little free state wherein he served the Romish see. Cunning and sagacious, he was never remiss in seizing all opportunities of promoting the Catholic interest. But he was at the same time subject to a passion which often defeated his best concerted schemes, that were continually rendered ineffectual by his insatiable avarice, apparent in the minutest circumstances. Thus, when I came into his possession, he saw, or fancied he saw a manifest disproportion in my fashion, and I was immediately carried by this titular metropolitan of the whole empire, to an artist, who
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cutting off a bit at the end of the cross, gave him a piece of money in exchange. This operation however as it proved, was far from being detrimental to the cause; for I was that very day carried, among a vast quantity of silver, to the mint, whence I issued in the form of an half crown piece, my essence being now divided, and my sphere of action and observation much enlarged by the multiplication of my parts, none of which assumed the form I now appear in till many years had elapsed."

"In a few days my pecuniary fragment was put into a bag, and I was conveyed to the house of the Lord Treasurer, with an immense quantity of money, all of the same metal. The great genius, uncommon capacity and large endowments of mind, conspicuous in my master's countenance, joined to an engaging address, and excellent good sense, with which his conversation abounded, presently obliterated the disgust occasioned by the monstrous deformity of his person; and he filled the high office he enjoyed (for which he was entirely indebted to his merit and abilities) with credit to himself, and advantage to the state. Perfectly well acquainted with every feature of the national genius, he possessed an admirable faculty of swaying the ministry, and diverting even his sovereign, from resolutions detrimental to the public weal; for the benefit of which he exercised his superior talents with an integrity as incorruptible as it was sincere, except where he found himself under the disagreeable necessity of having recourse to artful adulation for the maintenance of his place, under

der a weak and pliant prince ; a deviation which as it continued him in office, was not only pardonable, but replete with benefit, throughout the land. But where shall we find a virtue sufficiently guarded against base intrigue, and the complicated effects of weakness in the sovereign, the wickedness in the favourite, and profligacy in the court ? There is a singular instance of an honest device he put in practice to restrain the unbounded profusion of the sovereign. On my arrival, I was consigned to a room, where were a number of bags, or rather sacks of silver money, ranged along the wall, of which there was continual supply coming in. The treasurer was sitting in a silent reverie, at length heaving a profound sigh (which seemed to come from the bottom of his heart) ‘ It is strange,’ says he, ‘ that a man ordained to rule over a whole people, instead of endeavouring to exert the power he enjoys, of conferring happiness, and aggrandizing himself on the noblest principles, should submit himself to the guidance of an inexperienced youth, who treats him with familiarity, imposes on his munificence, and sinks him into that insignificance from which by his favour he emerged himself ; the contempt attached to such a conduct, indeed affects only himself, but this excess of extravagance, this prodigal profusion, in behalf of one who has no one circumstance to recommend him, by which the state is benefited, is severely felt by the people, who are plundered, to supply the money lavished on an execrable minion. ’Tis time indeed that something should be done, to stop this destructive channel of abuse. At least

least the attempt is more than worth the risque." —He then resumed his meditations, in which he was interrupted by a person, who acquainted him that he had brought up the last bag, which completed the twenty thousand pounds in silver. My master having given the necessary discharge, went down to dinner, which he eat in profound silence with dispatch. After this I was surprised to see preparations for an entertainment, which by no means corresponded with the sentiments of prudence and œconomy I had so lately heard him express, and to see him in person, overlooking those employed, at the same time expressing an anxious solicitude for the due arrangement of every thing throughout the house, which assumed the air of the most extravagant, and voluptuous temple of pleasure for the satisfaction of his expected guests. Having seen every thing disposed to his mind, he returned to the room where we were, and ordering us to be brought into an anti-chamber, and emptied upon a large table covered with green cloth, he amused himself with spreading us out, to shew to the greatest advantage, and having the appearance of an enormous sum, by which preparation, he might have incurred the imputation of an unjust supposition, that he was one of those needy noblemen, that support themselves by the scandalous profits acquired from those, who, allured by an external display of imaginary wealth, submit to be plundered in good company, at the gaming tables of right honourable knaves. Every room now shone with the lustre of artificial day, and was soon crowded with company in masques, composed of the most
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distinguished nobles in the realm. In about an hour my master, on receiving a signal from his principal domestic, instantly disappeared, to receive a party of the first consequence, consisting of the sovereign, the favourite Earl, and their attendant suite, whom he conducted up a stair-case, to the anti-chamber where we were disposed, through which it was necessary to pass, to a room where a collation was prepared worthy of the royal guest. Struck with the unexpected magnificence of the scene, the monarch expressed his satisfaction at the compliment paid to him, in terms highly flattering to his noble host, at the same time asking for what purpose that immense sum of money was so disposed? To which he replied carelessly, 'That it was laid there by mistake, discovered too late to rectify in time, but it was—*only the twenty thousand pounds, which, according to the royal mandate, was to be sent as a present to the Earl.*' Astonished at the magnitude of the sum, (which was so spread as to appear three times more than it was, and all in silver) and the audacious rapacity of the favourite, he stood a while as if under the influence of an electrical shock, at length recovering from his surprise—'How,' says he, twenty thousand pounds, (turning with a look of resentment at the favourite, who was at his right hand) but we are your lordship's guests, and will not interrupt the hilarity of the present hour, to-morrow we will speak further, in the mean time he must be contented with a quarter of that heap.' He then passed on, while the favourite trembled at his frown. The news of this event, which immediately transpired through the officious circulation of
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of the court leeches, (ever industriously on the watch to propagate the vicissitude of royal favour) had a wonderful and instantaneous effect on the company. The fall of the Earl was prognosticated, for though the order for the money had actually received the royal signature, in an unguarded hour of convivial pleasure, when affection for the favourite knew no bounds, yet those well versed in mankind, were not ignorant, that the perpetrators of actions, performed under an undue influence, which reflect disgrace on their ostensible agents, when they are sensible thereof, and would avoid the odium attached thereto, are ever ready to take revenge for the consequences of their own egregious folly, on the object of that partiality which was its unworthy source. Others who did not think so deeply, were satisfied with the agreeable reflection, that the monarch had frowned upon the Earl, when in all probability he would have been disgraced; and he whose hand would have been received five minutes before by the first female in the land, with a transport of joy, and have occasioned universal envy towards the fair who boasted that honour, now found it difficult to obtain a partner of more than ordinary rank. But he knew too well the passage to his master's heart to be so speedily overthrown. When the order was obtained, a blank had been left for the sum, till enquiry should be made what money was in the Treasury, and the matter being forgot, the Earl had ventured to fill it up himself. He had address enough to persuade his master that he had left at the Treasury with a clerk, (whom he suborned to bear testimony thereto) with a message

to the Treasurer, to insert such a sum as could be conveniently spared; that he had taken advantages of this circumstance to insert so large an amount, with a view of ruining his credit with the prince, who was now sadly embarrassed between his affection for the favourite, and respect for the virtues of the Treasurer, whose removal the Earl had long endeavoured to procure, and now stimulated by revenge, he vowed with most bitter invectives to effect. The sovereign therefore, equally fearful of the event, turn out which way it would, easy as it was to have discovered the truth, made it the condition of his future favour, that his favourite should drop the prosecution of revenge, affecting to give implicit credit to his story, and promising on some occasion which might offer, to remove the Treasurer, who was now so necessary to his service, and so universally beloved, that it would reflect the highest dishonour on himself, to shew him the least indignity or slight. The morning after the ball, five thousand pounds were sent to the Earl, according to order then given as before related, among which I was; and shortly after, Death saved the favourite the trouble and odium of any further contrivances against my former master's welfare, who died universally lamented, as he had lived universally admired and beloved.

CHAP. IV.

He continues at Court, and ruins his Master by the secret Exertion of diabolical Influence, with admirable Address.

YOU are to understand (pursued the spirit) that our intuitive faculties are not restricted to the knowledge of those events, which happen at the time when we are in the possession of our respective proprietors; but that tho' we are precluded from all knowledge of futurity, we are immediately initiated into the most comprehensive and accurate intelligence of the past, when all such transactions which have affected those, to whom we may appertain, with their concomitant circumstances, so far as known to themselves only, are instantaneously unfolded to our perception; by which means we obtain a perfect knowledge of the characters of those, on whom we are to exert our influence. This extraordinary privilege however is strictly confined to personal possession, for we are entirely ignorant of such occurrences and dispositions, as are attached to the persons and interest of those into whose possession we do not arrive, unless where they are comprehended in the act of our possessor; nor can we change the habitation allotted us, tho' if it is divided into thousands of parts, we can partake

partake of the information of all, or any as we please, with a power of uniting, quitting, distributing, and recalling our essence, as shall best suit the purpose of our charge, which it is at our peril to neglect. This relates only to that class I belong to, but those of a superior order are in every respect indulged with larger powers. As I perceived the favourite (who now ruled the sovereign with as extensive a sway as ever) was not well affected to our cause, I did not withdraw from that portion of my receptacle of which he was the owner.

✕ My present master was neither a man of learning or experience, with a very slender capacity. But there was in his disposition a degree of flexibility, and complaisant, acquiescent resignation to the opinions of such as wished to make an impression on his mind, that adapted him greatly to the purpose of his prince, who had imbibed an unaccountable propensity to commence pedagogue in politics, and had pitched upon this raw unadulterated youth, as the first subject of an essay in his political school. He was therefore constituted favourite, and the bounty of his sovereign was showered down upon him in such a torrent of riches, and unwarrantable preference, that all opposition being found in vain, he was soon looked upon as the sure channel to the royal favour, and ruled with unlimited sway the disposition of the court. Unfortunately for our purpose, he had attached himself to a gentleman of uncommon wisdom, abilities, and integrity, by whose advice he conducted himself in such a

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Richard Carr (Earl of Somerset)

manner, as to steer clear of those dangerous attempts, which had proved fatal to many of his predecessors. It was therefore necessary to engage him in some pursuit, which should render him obnoxious to the state, and if possible, involve his faithful Mentor in his fall. As his political conduct was without reproach, recourse was had to something of a more domestic nature, which as far surpassed our hopes in its success, as in its process it filled the realm with horror and disgust.

Though the heart of my master was inaccessible to avarice at that time, he was by no means so to the softer, but more powerful attacks of love. It was therefore necessary to intangle him in some amour, the complicated intricacies of which, should at length be productive of dismissal and disgrace. For this purpose an object was pitched upon, perfectly qualified in every respect to answer the desired end, as she possessed every personal requisite to captivate the favourite, and every mental qualification to urge him on to his destruction. Beautiful, proud, passionate, and revengeful, no consideration whatever restrained her from the most daring attempts, to accomplish whatever her vindictive passions dictated, by which she was often transported with a fury, little short of frenzy, against those who impeded her designs. She had been married very young, and her husband having been sent abroad, on account of their youth, the marriage had not been consummated. It was at the time my master was at the zenith of his fortune, that her husband returned with

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Earl of Essex

ardour to his lovely bride, but he found her very far from answering the hopes he had entertained of mutual love. She had conceived a violent passion for the Earl, nor could all the authority of her father avail to make her obedient to her husband's will, to defeat which she put in practice every stratagem which art or nature could suggest. At length the intercourse between her and my master became so public, that the court began to speak with great freedom on the subject, while the husband gave her up as one unworthy of his regard. It was then the Earl took a step which occasioned his being guilty of a crime that ended in his total ruin. Driven by his passion from one excess to another, he completed the course of iniquity he had begun, by the perpetration of an act replete with the basest ingratitude, and accompanied with a murder of the foulest kind. Making no doubt he should meet with assistance from that faithful friend, to whose direction while he submitted, he was honoured and esteemed, he consulted him on the means for bringing his amour to a happy issue, and to furnish him with some project at once to accomplish a divorce, and clear the way for his own espousals of the lady; but great was his disappointment, when instead of the expected aid, he met with the highest disapprobation, and the strongest dissuatives from his real friend. This worthy man represented to him, the scandal which would result from such an act to the nobility, the particular odium he would incur himself, the injustice he would be guilty of to her husband, and the danger he would run. He set forth the infamy attached to her character;

Sir Thomas Overbury 2

ter; that her reputation being entirely lost, it would, when she became his wife, infallibly stigmatize his own, and in short, so transported was he by his honest zeal for the welfare of my master, that he treated her in the warmth of friendship for him, and the heat of animosity against her, who was the cause of his deviating from that honourable path in which he had hitherto guided him, as a strumpet profligate and base; pronouncing all her relations, who countenanced the scheme, as panders to her execrable deeds. Surprized and exasperated as my master was at this unexpected check, he had the address in a great measure to suppress his resentment, but unfortunately he had not discretion to conceal it from his mistress, who violently enraged, and very apprehensive of her designs being rendered abortive, by the well known abilities, wisdom and probity of the friend, she vowed revenge, and exerted every captivating power she possessed, to excite her lover to accord. This was the very crisis of my master's fate; long and severe was the struggle between probity and love. It is on these occasions our influence is attended with assured success. The deliberation of the mind between good and evil, where the passions interfere in behalf of the latter, generally terminate in our favour, and the greatest difficulty is, to produce that hesitation in the active principle; when this is done, the work is easy. Accordingly with a little of my assistance, he was weak enough to sacrifice his worthy friend.

C H A P. V.

Continued—He gives a striking example of his Abilities for Intrigue.

‘THE business was now to remove the only person, who was capable by his knowledge and integrity, to have maintained him in the unlimited enjoyment of his sovereign’s favour, beyond the utmost malice of those enemies inevitably created by envy for his post, and thereby remove the obstacle to their mutual wishes. This required the utmost precaution, nor could they be too circumspect in their proceedings against one, who by the purity of his manners, had gained universal esteem, and was unassailable either by the allurements of ambition, or the gratification of avaricious desires. They therefore made that very friendship which he professed, and of which he had given my master such undoubted and salutary proofs, subservient to his own destruction. They first suggested to the sovereign (after extolling his abilities and capacity) that he was become insolent and overbearing, and then urged the necessity of sending him abroad. Accordingly an honourable employment being allotted to him, he was commanded to depart, which, in all probability he would have done, without any reluctance or delay, but my master represented to him in a seeming agony of despair, that without his counsel he should be lost, and unable to conduct himself through the labyrinth

labyrinth of court intrigue, if denied the benefit of his presence and advice. Here he spoke truth, which was made on this occasion the prostituted servant of the most abandoned crimes. He then earnestly entreated him to refuse the honourable office, with which he was to be invested, promising to procure him a more eligible station at home, and engaging to deprecate his offended sovereign's wrath. It was impossible to avoid falling into this snare, so artfully was it laid. On his withdrawing, after a fatal compliance with his request, from the royal presence, my master exaggerated his pride in refusing the favour of his prince, whom he aggravated by every suggestion he could invent, and finally enlarged on the absolute necessity of chastising him on that account. In consequence of which, his close imprisonment ensued.

‘ He was now where the lovers wished him to be, and they were the arbiters of his fates, the decision of which soon brought on their own; for, not contented with having put him in a situation which precluded him from obstructing their designs, they resolved to take away his life. But a murder committed in the state prison, was a circumstance of too great notoriety to attempt; they therefore had recourse to poison, but were a long time before they could accomplish their ends without the knowledge of those, from whom their safety made it necessary to conceal the deed. At length by means of a large reward, they prevailed upon a man who was recommended as servant, to dispatch him, but he being too narrowly watched, they employed an apothecary's apprentice, who in the

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course of his physical operations, at once ended his miseries and his life.

‘ In the mean time the divorce was brought forwards, and a petition being presented to have the affair investigated, it was referred to some divines of the highest rank, to hear and determine the affair, and the right reverend fathers of the church, with all becoming gravity, entered into a disquisition on such grounds, as subjected them to the ridicule of all the realm. The result was that the lady, after proper examination, (in which she substituted a friend in her place, to undergo the inspection of certain matrons, appointed for the purpose, under cover of a veil, which, out of regard to decency, she was allowed to wear) was permitted to marry again. It is needless to say she wedded my master, and the nuptials were shortly after solemnized with splendor and joy throughout the whole metropolis, but ill becoming the scandalous circumstances attending its progression, and the horrid act of cruelty which effected its completion, so atrocious in its nature, that devil as I am, I felt a momentary compunction for the evils to which I had been accessory ; and longed with impatience for the time when (according to our usual custom) I was to punish the wretches I had betrayed, leave them to be harrowed by the sharp and corroding agonies of a wounded conscience, and finally plunge them into misery in this world, preparatory to their sure destruction in that which is to come.

‘ From the instant my master had accomplished his desires of marrying his mistress, and murdering

dering his friend, he underwent a total change of disposition. He was no longer the lively entertaining pupil of his sovereign's care; fullen, gloomy, avaricious, slovenly and discontented, he took upon him to oppose the wanton merriment in which he took delight. His enemies (for where is the favourite who has not many?) neglected no opportunity, by crossing him on all occasions to render more disagreeable his altered temper, till at length he grew so disgustful to the prince, that he was determined to take the first opportunity to get rid of a confidant he no longer loved, and substitute another in his room. To complete his fate, a young man was thrown in his master's way, who was amply endowed with every requisite to supersede him in his favour, the first mark of which was his pardoning an infringement of an ancient law, for punishing those who should be guilty of such disrespect, as to strike another under the royal roof, though my master exerted all his interest to make him suffer. No sooner was this new inclination observed, but it was encreased by every extravagant encomium that could raise him in the opinion of the prince, and the court was divided between my master and the rising sun; but at length the former precipitated his fate, by his impolitic rejection of the latter's overtures of friendship, which were made at the instance of their sovereign, who would willingly have attached them both. My master was sitting in a melancholy mood, a miserable example of distracted guilt, when his competitor was announced—'I am come,' says he, with the most engaging address, and looks of becoming respect, 'to solicit your

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friendship.

friendship. It has pleased the prince to give me reason to hope, on many occasions, that my welfare is not indifferent to him, having received many instances of his distinguishing favour. I shall be glad to improve these happy omens of my future fortune under your lordship's patronage and protection, in which case you may depend on me to serve you to my utmost abilities, and obey your commands with assiduity and care.' To this overture the earl replied, in the harshest terms, whilst hatred, malice and envy were apparent in his face and air,—' I reject,' says he, with indignation, ' your presumptions, and artful proposal; your services I will not accept, your friendship I disclaim, and my favour I deny. Be assured you see in me one who will on all occasions seize every opportunity to do you every injury I can, and leave no effort untried, to effect your ruin in this court.'—With which he turned his back upon his visitor, who by this report of the reception he had met, put the finishing stroke to the downfall of the earl; to accelerate which a circumstance now happened that gave his enemies an advantage, and the sovereign a fair opportunity to rid himself of an incumbrance, of which he was most heartily tired. It happened that the apothecary's boy, who had been privy to, and instrumental in the death of my master's former friend, and had absconded, was taken dangerously ill; struck with contrition, he confessed all he knew. In consequence of which the earl and his partner in guilt, were tried and both condemned to death, but by the royal clemency reprieved, and at last pardoned, with liberty to retire to a country seat, where to
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the reproaches of their disagreeable reflections on their enormous sins, was added the misery of domestic woe; the most inveterate hatred having succeeded to that unbounded passion, which had driven them to the commission of such abominable deeds. Notwithstanding this, he certainly was thereafter on the point of recovering his former station, from which he was excluded only by the hand of death.

CHAP. VI.

Argal descends in the scale of Life, and through an inferior Channel becomes the property of Royal Blood.

‘SOON after the disgrace of the earl, (whose successor filled his place with equal if not superior power) I became the property of his taylor, he paid me to his journeyman, whence I passed through the hands of a retailer in spirituous liquors to those of an exciseman, who, when it was dark, with two cags of brandy, (a present for certain offices which he did not perform) hid under a horseman’s loose furtout, took a boat, in order to convey him home, when I passed into the possession of the waterman in payment of his hire, who, on his landing, having loaded his prentice with his oars, was proceeding homewards.

‘As I apprehended I should not meet with any thing worth my observation in my present service, I was about to quit it; when my new master was accosted by a person wrapt in a cloak, in which he muffled up his face, so that it could scarce be seen, but the wind having blown it aside, I immediately recognized him for a Roman Catholic nobleman of the first distinction, whom I had often seen at court.—‘Hark ye, friend,’ says he to my master, ‘have you a mind for an extraordinary

traordinary fare?" "Extraordinary fare!" replied the other, (who was a wit in his way) "I have had already one too many, I'm sure it is not *fair* I should receive only this piece (producing me) for such a pull with that great fat lubber and his cargo; to be sure it's a handsome piece, but what of that, (as uncle Van Schooner used to say) The worth of all things is as much as they will fetch. Oh! had he been living I should not have wanted any *fare*, ordinary or extraordinary, perhaps I should have been a parson, instead of being lashed to the oar, in my old age like a galley slave, by the chain of my necessities. And pray, where the devil does your wife worship want me to carry you, at this time of night?"—"The time of night when you'll be wanted, is not come by two hours yet awhile," replied the gentleman. "Look you, master, if you will carry three persons without any luggage, two leagues down the river at ten o'clock to-night, here are two pieces now as earnest, and on your landing you will receive three more; what say you, will you take the job, or must I look for another?" At this proposal my master looked for a minute as if deprived of his senses. "How," says he, "five pieces to go only two leagues, this is no common business. But belay your information (perceiving the other was going to speak, and taking the gold) the less I know the less I can answer for, so you may depend on my being here at ten, with the awning up, and all things neat and trim, for I suppose as how there is a lady in the case? ah, master, you would never go two leagues down the river in the dark, if there was not a lady in the case!" at this they parted. I

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was now determined not to shift my quarters before I saw the end of the adventure, which I set down as a love affair; but my conception fell far short of this important expedition. The waterman having given proper instructions, and enjoined secrecy to his boy, we pursued our way home. As he had received many instances of the inordinate curiosity and meddling disposition of his wife, he eat his supper and made his preparations necessary for his voyage, in profound silence. But when at half past nine he took his great coat and lanthorn,—‘Whither now,’ says she, ‘What, you are going after some of your smuggling companions, who were near ruining us, but not a foot shall you stir to night?’—on which she turned the key of the street door, and put it in her pocket. In vain did he tell her, he was going on a very profitable job of the utmost consequence; she insisted on his staying or taking her with him; at length having got the key by force, he shoved her from the door, against which she had set her back, and giving her a push, she unfortunately fell down the cellar stairs, bawling out murder, when the watchman coming by, broke open the door; the house was full of people, and my master in custody in a thrice. He now was exasperated to the utmost pitch of fury and rage, when the clock struck ten. He therefore desired to speak to his wife, who sat crying and complaining of her ill usage on the stairs. This being granted, he put a piece of gold into her hand, and whispered in her ear he was going to earn another; when the good woman, whose avarice fortunately exceeded every thing else, suddenly jumped up and abused

the neighbours with a degree of virulence, for interfering in her concerns, which sent them out faster than they came in. The house being cleared, he dispatched the prentice to the place of appointment, and after bestowing a hearty curse or two on his mate, (who was now as eager to hurry him away as she was before to detain him) posted after him. Luckily the Duke (for such he was) had appointed him an hour before the time, that they might not have to wait.

‘ When my master began almost to despair of touching the remainder of this lucrative fare, (for which he uttered the most bitter imprecations on his rib) he with joy perceived three persons coming towards him; one of whom he remembered to be the same with whom he had made the bargain, the other was a gentleman of good appearance, and the third seemed to be a handsome youth, to whom the other two paid the greatest attention and respect; the timid apprehensions, extreme delicacy, and feminine tones of voice of whom, soon betrayed her to me as a female in disguise. X To dispel the disagreeable melancholy of their nocturnal voyage, the gentlemen exerted their utmost endeavours to amuse the lady, and the Duke, among other things, asked her if she had seen any of the new coin? On her answering in the negative, he desired my master to produce the piece he had received in the evening, which being done, and inspected by the assistance of the lanthorn, the lady expressing a desire to keep it, my master acquiesced, and received an ample compensation for its value, when I became a resident in her waistcoat pocket.

+ Lady Isabella Stuart

On our landing, we left my old master to enjoy the fruits of his expedition, while we, preceded by the boy with the lanthorn, went into the road, where was a chariot and fix with four servants well armed, expecting our arrival; the nobleman took his leave, and the other gentleman (who proved to be her woman) taking her place by my mistress, we set off at a great rate, and travelling all night, stopped at a town above ten leagues distance. Here my mistress went to rest, but rose again about two o'clock in the afternoon with an intent to pursue her journey; when just as they were stepping into the carriage, a party of light horse rode into the yard, and made them prisoners in the Prince's name. The officer, taking his seat between them, after expressing his concern, in the politest terms, at the disagreeable duty he was obliged to execute, gave orders to pursue the road they came; and my mistress, after a melancholy journey, was safely lodged in the prison where state prisoners were usually confined.

C H A P. VII.

Continued.—The advantage of high Birth.

‘IT was this lady’s peculiar misfortune to be allied to the royal family, who in the apprehension of a jealous disposition, had long waited for an opportunity to secure her person. At length she became an instrument in the hands of a discontented cabal, and in the end furnished the Prince with a satisfactory pretence to imprison her for life. Some noblemen of the first consequence, on his accession to the throne, had been desirous of restricting him to the subscription of certain articles, for the surer preservation of their religion, liberty, and laws, which there was reason to think would be endangered by the admission of a foreign branch. When he was established in the government he did not forget this circumstance, of which, vindictive, suspicious, and apprehensive as he was, he shewed the quickest sense, by every mark of contempt, to those who had suggested the conditions it was intended he should sign, that his elevated station enabled him to shew; while alarmed by the frowns of the Sovereign, they nourished a secret discontent; this was much aggravated by the clandestine insinuations of a certain foreign count, the secret emissary of a neighbouring state, who found some of the male-contents very inimical to the interests of his master, and by their
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great abilities highly capable to embarrass and obstruct him in his political intrigues. Having insinuated himself into their councils, he took every opportunity to inflame their resentments, exaggerating the contempt with which they were treated, and the disgraces they continually experienced at court. When their imaginations being warmed, with the constant repetition of the flagrant injustice they daily sustained, he suggested a scheme of revenge, as ridiculous in its conception, as it was difficult in the execution. This was nothing less than to compass a revolution, and invest my mistress with the government. She was indeed allied to the sovereign by his father's side, but as he claimed by his mother, there could be but little probability of success, and indeed the whole plan was preposterous and absurd; besides, there was a condition annexed to her intended elevation, which created a difficulty that they were not aware of; being entirely ignorant, that she had long entertained an ardent affection for a noble lord, (who was also distantly related to the royal family) by whom she was equally beloved. When therefore the conspirators opened their proposals to her under the express stipulation, that she should previously enter into a compact, to receive a consort from the sovereign of the count, who had first conceived this extraordinary plot (and who by this means had procured a double advantage, first, by engaging them in a treason, which, if it miscarried, must destroy them, secondly, by effectually serving his Prince if it succeeded) she at first absolutely rejected it. But the charms of empire were not without their usual influence in

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a female mind, and sharp was the contest between her ambition and her love. At length the latter excited a consideration, whether it was not possible to unite them, and comprehend her lover in the plan, which was to elevate herself; her hopes of success being more sanguine, by the circumstance of his being descended in a direct line, from a family grafted on the royal stock. Enchanted with the idea of being the means of aggrandizing her lover, she acquainted him at their next interview of what was in agitation, but to her great disappointment, he did not receive the news with that joy she had expected. So far from being elated with the prospect of approaching grandeur, he set forth to her in the strongest terms, the absurdity of the plot, which was not attended with the least probability of success; representing to her the danger of the conspiracy, and certain consequences of almost a certain miscarriage, in their attempts to overthrow the reigning Prince. But it was all in vain, dearly as she loved him, she could not be persuaded to forego the pleasures of ambition, and she required his acquiescence, as the most convincing proof of his love she could receive. Mollified at length by her tears and intreaties, rather than convinced by arguments she had advanced in favour of the plot, he finally reminded her, of the previous conditional contract she was to enter into regarding her marriage, prior to any step to be taken in her favour, which would be entirely destructive of the consummation of their loves. Startled as she was at this (the consequences of which she had in the heat of argument

ment entirely forgot) she presently thought of an expedient, which at once rendered it impossible to comply with the requisition of the conspirators, and defeated its validity if acceded to, at the same time, that it seemed to be the most powerful inducement to engage him to agree with what she had proposed, as their interests would then be inseparably united. This was an immediate private marriage, their union having been delayed much against his inclination, in hope of obtaining the royal approbation in that behalf, but which he too well knew the policy and temper of his sovereign, to think he ever should obtain; whilst she, loath to forego the splendour with which her public wedding would be celebrated, as a princess of the blood, had from time to time procrastinated the completion of that desirable event,—accordingly they were privately married the next day.

‘In the evening at their nocturnal assembly, held as usual at her house, to the utter astonishment and concern of all present, she acquainted them of the alliance she had entered into, which she antedated so as to appear precedent to any idea which had been formed of the intended plot; she then presented her husband as one ready to join in all they should propose. Somewhat reconciled to this unforeseen accident, by the consideration of the princely extraction of her spouse, they entered into deep deliberation, what course they should pursue. It was first resolved that he should jointly enjoy the sovereignty with her, that troops should be raised under pretence of succouring allies, with permission of the state, by whom the person of the sovereign should be seized,

seized, the male-contents armed, and remonstrances dispersed throughout the realm, where their friends were to act at the same time in concert, at an appointed hour. This arrangement being unanimously agreed on, a difficulty occurred of a very serious nature, respecting the count who had first given light to the design.—My mistress's marriage destroyed all hopes of any further communication on that side, after much debate it was agreed, that he should not be acquainted with it, till she was invested with the government, which was not difficult to compass, as he was too artful to put it in the power of any one (in case of a discovery) to say that he was present at their councils. In the mean time, regardless of future consequences, she was to enter into the stipulated agreement with him respecting her espousals, after she was established: All things being settled, they swore allegiance to her, and every one repaired to his appointed station, to sow the seeds of seditious discontent, and promote the common cause to the utmost of his power; while my mistress and her husband, little dreaming of the impending storm, were revelling in the enjoyment of unbounded love, and in the intervals of connubial happiness, anticipating the exalted felicity of future days.

C H A P. VIII.

Continued.—The Victims of Ambition.

‘ I T unfortunately happened that one of the conspirators was absent on that fatal night, who was acquainted by his brother of what had passed ; but he could not give him the necessary precaution relating to the count’s being to be kept in dark, as he had been obliged to leave the house before that subject had come upon the carpet. The absentee accidentally meeting the count in a convenient place, told him the proceedings of the assembly, as far as they came to his knowledge. It was impossible to describe the transports of rage with which he was seized, at seeing himself so near being the dupe of his own intrigue, but he had command enough of himself to conceal it from his informant. Profound politician as he was, if it had not been for an accident, a plot, the creature of his own brain would have exhibited his master, as the object of an imposition to which himself had given birth. It was not directly that he recovered from the effects of this unexpected stroke, but when he did, he vowed ample vengeance on them all ; with this view he went directly to the sovereign, and discovered the whole affair, so far as related to the plot, varnishing over the share he had in it, as a step absolutely necessary towards
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the developement of their designs, in their fullest extent, but suppressing the circumstance of the marriage, for reasons which will appear hereafter. When he had received the intelligence of their proceedings from the absentee, tho' he preserved a profound silence, he had not been able entirely to suppress his emotion so far, but that it was visible he was disgusted. The conspirator therefore suspicious of the blunder he had made, went round to the several parties and gave the alarm, when it was agreed they should separately make their escape, and remain beyond sea, till they either had a fair opportunity to compass their designs in favour of my mistress, or the danger was subsided, if there should be no probability of success. But in the count they had to deal with one, who did not do things by halves; for at the same time that he gave information of the plot, he prevailed to have warrants issued for the apprehension of them all, and so diligent were those intrusted with the execution thereof, that they were all apprehended, and condemned to suffer death, except my mistress, whom he described as a mere tool in the business; the sovereign therefore was induced, by the representations of the count, (whose advice he now implicitly followed) out of respect to her consanguinity to himself, to inflict no other punishment on her, than an order to confine herself for the present to her house, and the tragedy ended with the execution of the most dangerous of those concerned; among whom an exception must be made in favour of my mistress's husband, whose name was not included in his information.

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‘ It has already been related that he had been silent respecting the marriage which had taken place, nor did he wish to do any thing to exasperate her. This conduct was the dictate of a most violent passion he had long conceived for her ; and as he could not annul her marriage, he thought it would be the best way to succeed, if he could make a plea of foregoing the exertion of that power over him, which he had so effectually obtained. He therefore now took the opportunity of her husband’s absence (who could only visit her by stealth, till the commotion on her account had subsided, lest he should be suspected of being concerned therein) to insinuate himself into her favour, and endeavoured by an artful recapitulation of the late events, to make her sensible of the power he had over their destiny ; he next attempted to intimidate her, by a display of the very great danger she had subjected herself to, when the secret he was privy to should be revealed—That as a princess of the royal family, she had entered into matrimonial bonds, without the permission of her sovereign. Having thus excited her fears, he proceeded to engage her gratitude by assurance of silence and protection ; and when he thought he had sufficiently explained upon what terms it might be bought, he boldly avowed his love, and pressed for the price of his future secrecy in what he knew, but it was all in vain ; besides that she loved her husband (in whom now all hopes of elevation were destroyed, her every wish was centered) the insult offered to her offended dignity stung her to the quick, and the contempt she treated him with, as soon as she

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she perceived his drift, overturned every hope he had flattered himself with, of a successful progress in his ungenerous amour, 'Hast thou,' said she, 'after destroying my brightest hopes—hopes inspired by thyself for selfish views, hast thou the audacity to think, that unmindful of the blood which flows within my veins, I could descend so very low, to buy thy silence at so vile a price? hence, monster as thou art, hence, and impeach me to the Prince, pursue me to the scaffold, and as my execution feeds thy dire revenge, may'st thou be wrung with bitterest remorse, to see that she who did not dare to live on such base terms, and save herself by stooping to a wretch like thee—yet dared to die.'

'Awed by the grandeur of her mien, the noble energy with which she spoke, and for a moment abashed at the despicable light in which he felt himself appear, he immediately withdrew, muttering vindictive curses on her husband's head; recollecting himself from the confusion into which he had been thrown by his humiliating defeat, he presently concluded to make another effort, preparatory to which, he resolved to separate her from her lord, but foreseeing if he divulged the secret of their union, she would also be confined beyond his reach, he limited his accusation to the plot, of which he alledged he was the principal support, and he was accordingly imprisoned without delay. Having thus cleared the way by removing what he thought the chief obstacle to his success, he determined to stay some time before he made another attempt, in hopes that her grief at being deprived of her husband's company would
humble

humble her exalted mind, and make her more compliant to his wishes, to which he intended to add the apprehension of the fatal catastrophe, which it was alone in his power to avert. But all his projects were rendered abortive by an unexpected event. His victim was the while contriving the means of his escape. Having feigned himself ill of a fever, and gained the physician to favour the imposition, a pretended delirium succeeded, which occasioned a relaxation of duty in those who had him in their care; when one night putting his servant (who was a mutilated grenadier) into his bed, and dressing himself in his clothes, with the patch he wore over his eye, and every other requisite to favour the deception, he passed the guards, and getting to the most unfrequented part of the ditch, which happened to be dry, he escaped and made the best of his way to my mistress's house. He had got within a few yards of the private door, when by the light of the lamp, he observed a man muffled up in a cloak, (whom he thought to be the count) to come out of the house, and depart with the utmost precipitation. On this he was filled with suspicions of the most tormenting nature to himself, and injurious to the honour of his wife. Jealousy instantaneously represented to him, that it was he who had first suggested, and then betrayed the confederacy, had procured the warrants for their apprehension, in which her highness had not been included, and lastly, had been the author of his own imprisonment, by which he was separated from her arms. He was irresolute what course to take, whether to pursue the violator of his honour,

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or to enter the house by a key, with which he had been furnished ever since their marriage, and take vengeance on my mistress's perfidy. At first he was inclined to the former, but suddenly recollecting his own situation as a state prisoner, and finding the count, during his deliberation, had got beyond his reach, he resolved on the latter, and mad with rage, rushed up stairs, where he was presented with a fight which instantly disarmed him of his wrath, and called up all his tenderness and love. This was my mistress on the carpet, her hair dishevelled, her handkerchief torn, her robes half off, her countenance bedewed with tears, and her whole figure stained with blood.

' The house in which my mistress lived was of great extent, behind it was a garden, at the bottom of which was a room originally destined for billiards by the former owner, but that he might not be incommoded, by such of his friends who came to play, passing through the dwelling or garden, a door was made to communicate with a court behind the house. This room was entirely neglected by the next tenant, who occupied the premises before my mistress, and it had been shut up for several years, after being converted into a repository for old useless lumber and worn-out furniture. At the commencement of the plot, it was thought of as a proper place to hold their treasonable assemblies in; and my mistress, after trying a large bunch of old keys, at last found those which belonged to the door into the garden, and that which opened to the court: by the latter a number were made for the use of the association, amongst the rest
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the count (though he had never made use of it till the circumstances of the conspiracy had encouraged him to press his suit to my mistress) had been presented with one, from the first agitation of the scheme. When her husband conceived hopes of his escape, he sent her private intelligence thereof by means of his physician who was devoted to his interest, directing her to expect him every night till he arrived, as soon as it was dark, in the room where their consultations used to be held. The very night he arrived, the count had pitched upon for his last attempt. Having let himself in, he was proceeding to the garden to enter the house, when to his equal surprise and satisfaction he found my mistress reading in the room. Encouraged by the certain absence of her husband, the distance of the place from the house, the impossibility of her alarming her servants, irritated by her late contemptuous repulse, and inflamed by his ungovernable passion, after a short and unsuccessful parley, he resolved not to lose an opportunity which he might never have again. Seizing her with the utmost violence he threw her on the floor, when in the struggle to effect his purpose, a short hanger that he wore (and in the heat of his pursuit he had neglected to take off) being tilted up, was drawn by the weight of the silver hilt from the scabbard, and falling with the pommel to the ground, he cast himself upon the point, the blade pierced through his side, and my mistress was in an instant covered with the effusion of blood that spouted from the wound.

• Appalled

* Appalled at the horrors of approaching death, and smarting with the anguish he sustained, the count arose, bound up his side as well as he could, and wrapping his cloak about him, immediately made off by the way he came, just as my mistress's husband arrived as above related, and before she had recovered from a fit, into which the perturbation she had undergone had thrown her; recovering from which, she was near relapsing, on finding herself in the arms of a stranger of mean appearance as she thought: but when her husband's voice had corrected the mistake occasioned by his disguise, her terror was presently forgotten in the excess of her succeeding joy. She soon recovered sufficiently to give him an account of all that had passed, and though his first sensations were to take signal vengeance on the execrable count, when my mistress reminded him of the perilous predicament in which they stood, he as a state prisoner, and herself as still subject to the jealous apprehensions of her kinsman and her prince, all vindictive measures for the present were superseded, in the consideration of the immediate danger of their present state, and what were the most eligible steps they could pursue. They agreed that there was no safety for them where they were; my mistress therefore slipping into the house, and putting her jewels and money in her pocket, returned with her confidential servant to her husband, and they all three on the instant proceeded to the house of the Duke, before mentioned, who was his near relation. By great good luck he was at home and alone; on hearing what had happened, he offered them
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assistance to escape, assuring them they had no time to lose, laid before them the necessity of an immediate separation, sent off his cousin (after he and my mistress had agreed on a place where they should meet) procured a carriage and servants, and unwilling to trust even his own domestics, hired a boat himself for the conveyance of her highness and her maid, whom he equipped in man's apparel, accompanying them till he saw them safe on their journey; when by the assiduous villainy of the exasperated count (who having no longer measures to keep, had disclosed her marriage to the sovereign) they were apprehended and imprisoned as before described. In this situation my mistress, after a long confinement, shortly after I came into her possession, died broken with grief, the victim of state intrigue and disappointed love.

CHAP. IX.

Argal relapses into an inferior Station, and gradually ascends again.—Female Vanity triumphant over Virtue.

SOON after the death of my mistress I was appropriated by her landress, who I found inhabited a small house of a tolerable decent appearance, in the suburbs of the town. On our arrival we were let in by the daughter, a beautiful damsel about eighteen years of age, of whom her mother enquired if the gentleman was at home,—‘No,’ replied the other, ‘He went according to custom, as soon as it was dark, to take his walk, and I don’t suppose we shall see him till bed-time.’—‘It is very strange,’ says the mother, ‘who can he be? he calls himself Saunders, but you know his linen, which is remarkable fine, is marked with a G. By his never stirring out till night I imagined he was absconding for debt, till last night, when I saw him speak to the bailiffs in behalf of our poor neighbour, when they were making the seizure of his effects for rent; besides I saw him slip something into his hand, so it can’t be debt for which he keeps so close. Pray has he made love to you yet, for he looks as if he could devour you, and you, hussy, look as if you would not be sorry if he did?’ ‘No mother, indeed,’ replied the daughter, with tears standing in her eyes, ‘he has never said a word

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to me of that fort *yet*.'—'Oh! what, then you expect he will soon, if he has not *yet*, and you seem ready to cry at your disappointment; perhaps he expects you to speak first, which like a forward minx as you are, it is not unlikely but you may; but I see through all your pretended modesty, with your downcast looks, and your artful blushes when he fixes his hawk's eyes upon your baby face. I warrant you there's rare doings when I'm out, between you both.'

'During this harangue, which continued in the same style a considerable time, she made occasional application to a bottle deposited in a cupboard at her elbow, at length the warmth of her repeated sups unlocking the springs of real envious secret discontent, with heightened colour and exalted voice she continued, 'and there,' says she, 'that old villain your grandfather to give you all, and take no more notice of me than if I was a dog: what if I did marry the corporal, a cleverer fellow never trod in neat's leather, and all his fault was imitating his betters, nothing but drinking and gaming, and if he spent all I had he was welcome to it, it was my own, was not it? Why don't you answer, you wretch! was it not my own, tell me that?'—She was now so exasperated by the immoveable silence of her daughter (who listened to all she said with the most provoking indifference) that she foamed with passion, when rising from her seat and clenching her fist,—'Then' she cried, 'You must take advice, and put yourself into chancery out of my sight, you undutiful devil, out of my sight or I'll sell you to.'—Here a smart wrap at the door in an instant changed the scene

scene, the old woman sunk hickuping into her seat again, while the young one was seized with such a universal tremour, that she could scarce sit upright, on hearing a person hastily pass through the passage and ascend the stairs. The mother now leaping her head back in her chair, and throwing her apron over her face, presently fell fast asleep, the other drawing a book from her pocket, began to read with great attention, which in about half an hour, on her mother's giving signs of finishing her nap, she carefully concealed again, who now waking, renewing the conference in milder terms,—‘Sophy,’ says she, in a whining tone, ‘You know I really love you, but when I think how my first husband’s father used me, it overcomes my spirits and makes me mad; I am sorry, my dear, if I have said any thing to terrify you.’—She then kissed, and soothed her, sobbing as if she underwent the most exquisite distress. Sophy, however, insensible as she had appeared to her mother’s violent behaviour, was by no means so to her endearments; she wept bitterly, returned her caresses, and begged her to restrain her tears, reminding her that in three years she should be of age, when it would be as much in her power as it was in her will to be her friend. They were now pretty well composed, when the mother resumed the subject of their lodger above, who had just come in,—‘Depend upon it,’ says she, ‘he is a gentleman, and if you mind your cards, who knows what may happen, he certainly is fond of you, and whatever his present intentions are, it depends on you to make an honourable agreement, or at once put a period to his hopes.’—

Such was the inconsistent behaviour of this woman, whose vulgarity in the former part of the dialogue put her on a level with the lowest of her sex, and she afterwards seemed anxious for the preservation of her daughter's honour, a laudable propensity that she expressed in terms of propriety, which bespoke her of another class.

‘My mistress was the daughter of an inn-keeper in a large country town, where her first husband was quartered; he was then a lieutenant universally esteemed for his honour, humanity and courage; he was remarkably handsome, and well endowed with all those accomplishments which make such havock in a female heart. Gay, and unmindful of the consequences, he yielded to the impressions made on him, by the then blooming charms of his landlord's daughter, and determined (if he could succeed, without deviating from a downright breach of that honour to which he had hitherto adhered) to obtain the *Fair Maid of the Castle*, as she was then called, to gain her affections, and to carry off the prize; to which the pride he took in succeeding with a girl, where so many of his preceding competitors had failed, might possibly as much conduce, as the pleasure the conquest might afford. The first week after he had adopted this juvenile design, he confined himself to reconnoitring the disposition of the enemy, and like a prudent general, determined not to run the hazard of a miscarriage by a too precipitate attack. In the course of his observation, he had reason to think she had withstood every overture to which a handsome girl is liable in a capital inn, upon a public and fre-

frequented road ; this was corroborated by the confession of all his brother officers, who had each in his turn besieged her with the usual artillery of flattery, promises, and presents ; some of whom, tho' gentlemen of high rank, and *strict honour*, had not hesitated to promise her marriage, which none intended to perform, and some of them could not, being married men themselves. The lieutenant however, never had any thing of this to answer for, he was in fact what the others were only in pretence, who vexed to see him preserve such a character, so singularly good, were eager to embark him in an intrigue which they did not doubt would involve him in the same circumstances with themselves ; they having become the ridicule of the object of their gallantry, and all her companions, to whom her vanity induced her to boast of every conquest she had made ; while her virtue enjoyed the triumph of recounting the ardour of her lovers, and her own immaculate conduct, in their numerous defeats.

Tho' the lieutenant was by far the handsomest, and on account of the many other amiable qualifications he possessed, the most calculated to succeed, he was not so conceited, as to trust the superiority he had by these advantages alone. His first effort was to discover the real motive of her conduct, which both her air and other well known symptoms, forbid him to ascribe to insensibility ; an accident soon furnished him with an opportunity, to find that vanity was the ruling passion in her heart. Having staid at home one field day, on account of a hurt in his foot, he had
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come down unperceived into the parlour, generally occupied by his mess, which had been originally part of the room where the family usually sat, but as it was thought too large, and they being in want of another, it was divided into two by a thin partition; he had not sat long before he heard the voices of the young lady and another person, which he presently knew to be that of the fat house-keeper to a certain booby country squire. In the course of their conversation he gathered, that the former had entered into an agreement with the latter, on her assisting in the accomplishing of a marriage between herself and her master, to pay her a certain sum within a stipulated time. At this gentleman's house he had often visited, and had occasioned a violent commotion in the bosom of his maiden sister, a discreet virgin of thirty years of age, who spoke of him as the handsome lieutenant, and was indeed enamoured of him to the greatest degree. He now listened with the utmost attention, when he learned that the squire tho' deeply smitten, was too apprehensive of the affiduities of the officers quartered at the house, to make any honourable proposals as yet, till they were gone; when if no consequences ensued, there were hopes it might still be brought about, and that he was more particularly jealous of himself. 'But,' says the housekeeper, 'I'll tell you a good joke: Our young lady is dying for love of him, and told my master plainly t'other day, that if he would not undertake it, she would find other means to make her affections for him known, and as she has been particularly civil to me ever since

since, I suppose I shall soon be employed on that account; to be sure he is a charming fellow, how handsome, then so genteel and engaging, all the girls are agog, she'll never get him, tho' there's no saying what money may do,—Why, my dear, what's the matter? you don't look well.'

'There was a two-fold reason for the alteration in my mistress's countenance, which occasioned the observation of her companion. The cool, tho' polite behaviour of the lieutenant, had in fact stung her to the heart; he had been aware, that to offer incense at a shrine where it was not only lavished, but expected as a matter of course, was not the way to succeed in any petition he might make to this idol of the scarlet cloth; but if he could once startle her by indifference and neglect, it was impossible to say ~~what might be the event; he knew also that the~~ value of an acquisition, was often enhanced by the difficulty of attainment; and he was not so very blind, and destitute of self-estimation, as to be ignorant that he was generally regarded by the fair sex with a favourable eye. On this plan he conducted himself, and was so far from paying her any compliments, or taking any of those liberties, sometimes assumed by his boisterous associates, that he did not even assent to the fulsome adulation she often received before his face, treating her with a degree of respect, into which he threw a tenderness, whenever he had occasion to address her, at once defying the power of her charms, piquing her pride, undermining her disdain, alarming her affections, and involving her
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in perplexity and doubt ; a mode of proceeding which was the more dangerous, as it so well concealed the end at which it was aimed. But there was another cause for her manifest disorder, which co-operating with the first, in spite of all her art to suppress it, betrayed the inward sensations of her heart. She hated, and was hated by the sister of the squire, with all that inveteracy which female rivalry could inspire ; she being the most desirable, as the other was the most wealthy woman in the town ; and the latter had not as yet forgot, that she had once lost a lover on whom she doted, by the intervention of my mistress whom he intended to have married, but died before the wedding day.'

' To the squire's housekeeper she pretended a sudden pain in her temple, which she bathed with Hungary water, and soon after her visitor departed. On her being left alone, she sat some minutes with her eyes fixed upon the fire, quite lost in thought ; at last—' Marry that wretch,' she exclaimed, ' and never say one civil thing to me ; love him indeed, so she well may, who can help it ! he is made for love : No, no, indeed, Miss Deborah, he is not designed for you, and that old fool to think that he is to be bought, but if he is, I'll be included in the bargain ; the devil is in the fellow, sure he is made of different materials from his foolish brethren, skipping about, chattering and grinning at one all day long, with their odious surfeiting common place rubbish, and then to have him picked up at last by that ugly, ill conditioned, pig's faced thing, Debby Kitefoot. Let what will be the consequence

consequence I'll spoil her sport, ere I'll be insulted every time I stir out with the sight of her hanging on his arm, even if I'm obliged to receive him within my own. She then stepped up to the glass and being perfectly satisfied with the information she received, and the reflections of that faithful friend, putting on a new cap, she waited his arrival, fully determined to begin her operations the moment he appeared. In the mean time the lieutenant, who had not lost a single word, slipped out at the back door, and going round the house, came in at the front. Unwilling to give her resolutions in his favour time to cool, he contrived to have a tete-à-tete with her, in which she rallied him most unmercifully on the report of his intended marriage with her inveterate enemy. He was too great an adept, after what he had heard her express, not to improve the advantage he had gained, so that after a very few interviews she agreed to surrender, on his giving her sufficient security to reject her rival.

* To accelerate the consummation of his wishes, it happened that the 'squire, apprehensive his sister should expose herself, undertook to make proposals in her behalf, this he did at the very critical juncture when the lovers were deliberating how to satisfy my mistress's scruples, arising from a possibility that he might still marry her rival after she had given him the dearest proof of her now unbounded love. He therefore wrote a polite, but strong and unequivocal rejection of the 'squire's overture, which he intrusted to her care to deliver, a circumstance

which highly gratified her spirit for humiliating the object of her hate. The articles of capitulation being thus signed, the garrison was given up, and the conqueror marched in with all the honours of war ; while the fair maid of the castle, who had for three years and upwards, withstood the repeated attacks of innumerable offers, fond of liberty, impenetrable to the charms of wealth or love, fell the sacrifice of a vanity, which was not proof against neglect, and the triumphant pleasures of mortifying the object of her scorn.

C H A P. X.

Continued—The consequences of Precipitation. A certain preventative against the intrusion of a Husband, applied with equal satisfaction to himself, and security to the Gallant.

SHORTLY after the final determination of this event, the lieutenant was removed to a station about fifty leagues from the scene of the last recited transaction. In another month my mistress felt the effects of her amour, and in half that time, by the indefatigable vindictive assiduity of Miss Deborah Kitefoot, it became the common topic of all the tea tables in town, who descanted on it with a degree of malignity proportioned to the universal admiration she had long inspired; the triumph at her misfortune being greatly heightened by a circumstance in itself sufficient to feed the malice of her female friends. This was the bankruptcy of her father, who had till then been esteemed a man of large undoubted property.

‘ Impoverished in her fortune, despised on the very spot where she had so long been envied, and treated with a respect beyond her sphere in life, in a fit of despair she packed up her clothes
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one morning early, and walking five miles to the next town, procured a place in a carriage, which went through that where her lover was on duty, to whom she represented what had passed, setting forth the miserable state to which she was reduced, in such persuasive terms, that overcome by the powerful effects of beauty, united with distress, he suffered the keenest anxiety of self-reproach, and such was the impartial justice of his sharp remorse, that it was not at all alleviated by the consideration how much she had been wanting to herself in the whole course of their intrigue, and that he was as little, or perhaps not at all indebted to her partiality to him, when compared to the acknowledged influence of her disappointed pride. According to the rules of modern profligacy, he should have renewed his intercourse with her, till satiated and tired with reiterated enjoyment, he should through the never failing channel of a friend, have consigned her to prostitution, infamy, and want.

‘ But unfortunately for his reputation in the annals of debauch, he inherited some qualities, which, to a man of gallantry, are not only superfluous, but an incumbrance, and obstructive to his flagitious fame; these were gratitude, honour, and humanity, swayed by whose dictates, he was weak enough to imagine that he was under the highest obligation to her for favours that had been the means of her disgrace; that he was bound to be her protector while she lived, and that her present situation required the utmost effort of his alleviating love. With these sensations he placed her in a comfortable situation during

during his absence on an expedition, which proved as unfortunate as it was ill concerted, whence he returned with the rank of major, but wounded so dangerously, that it was the unanimous opinion of the faculty he could not survive the consequence long, though he might possibly linger several weeks before he died. Impelled by the same maxims by which he had always regulated his unblemished conduct, and reflecting that when he died my mistress would be left destitute, well assured that his father would never consent to his resolution in her favour (as he prided himself on being distantly allied to a peerage, which had long been dormant, and was not without hopes by means of an honourable marriage between his son and a female of the house, to revive it in his own family,) to insure the pension after his decease, he married her forthwith, when, contrary to the physical sentence passed upon him, the excellence of his constitution, (having never been impaired by excesses so frequently given into by the gentlemen of the cloth) he recovered, and his health was perfectly re-established, though he was from the moment of his marriage an alien to his father's heart, who would never see, speak, or hear of him again.

‘ The conduct of his wife but ill repayed the affection of his own ; haughty, extravagant and vain, she added one to the many hundred proofs, that the man who marries his mistress, seldom fails to make himself a scourge ; and there are very few exceptions where she does not take severe revenge for all the humiliations she has undergone

dergone as such, when elevated to the honours of a wife. The present instance was not one of them. She grew turbulent, dissatisfied, and jealous when he was at home, and when abroad with the regiment she contracted debts, which on his return he was very ill qualified, though obliged to pay. At length, discarded by his parents, forsaken by his friends, and unhappy with his wife, he fought a desperate command, where he found the end of all his troubles, and fell covered with wounds and honour in a foreign field, leaving my mistress a widow of five and twenty, and his daughter six months old.

‘ No sooner was he dead, than many of those, who had avoided him on account of his embarrassed situation when alive, began to pity him, lamenting the circumstances of his death, and as he was no longer in a condition to ask for their assistance, they found out that he was possessed of virtues they had never seen before. To those my mistress applied, and as long as she confined her solicitations to the exertions of their good offices with her father-in-law, they complied.— But all their efforts were in vain, he looked on her as the cause of his son’s misfortunes and unhappy death, and reprobated her with the most bitter execrations, swearing he would never see or relieve her, or the offspring of their marriage, though perishing for want. But when the susceptibility of age had mollified his heart, he so far relaxed, that at the intercession of the dearest friend of his departed son, he consented to see his grand daughter, when he was so far engaged by her innocence, beauty, and resemblance

blance of his son, that he took her home, keeping her with him for the short remainder of his life, making a will in her favour, by which he left her every shilling he was worth, but with such restrictions to the prejudice of her mother, that every artifice of law was practised, to debar her from the smallest benefit thereof, and prevent the daughter's giving her the least relief.

‘ If the resentment of the old gentleman was kindled against her, by her ill behaviour in the lifetime of her husband, it had not been at all mitigated by her subsequent proceedings. Her first step was to forfeit her pension by a marriage with a handsome stripling who had been a corporal in her husband's corps, he had been discharged on account of some disgraceful action, for which he had narrowly escaped a halter; but having the good fortune to be brother to the colonel's mistress, the affair had, at his intercession, been compromised, and he was *only* broke with ignominy. With this fellow it was strongly suspected ~~she~~ ^{he} had a criminal connection before her husband's death, and his inducement to marry her was her share of her father's property on his death, amounting to a few hundreds; his affairs having been made up after his failure, which appeared to have been more the consequence of indolence and speculation in agriculture, than any deficiency in his accounts.

While the money lasted which was not long, they went on with tolerable comfort to themselves, but this being exhausted, the usual consequence ensued. My mistress one day reflecting
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with horror on approaching want, and what course they should pursue, to turn this evil from the door, happened to sit opposite a glass, (on what small accidents do our greatest undertakings depend!) she saw herself, and that view convinced her she still had one resource. She was sufficiently acquainted with the disposition of her husband, to know he would consent to any thing which supported him in idleness and drink. By degrees, after a most pathetic representation of their indigent condition, she hinted to him, that she was willing to undergo any thing for his sake, entered into a nice discrimination between the prostitution of the person, and the mind, and finding he still listened without shewing any signal of disgust, she at length plainly proposed that he should give her opportunity to pursue a plan she had formed for retrieving their affairs. She then proceeded to acquaint him that she had long attracted the notice of a certain peer, well known in the annals of licentious fame, who seemed to be so deeply enamoured of her charms that he would spare no expence to accomplish his desires. To this he had no objection, and after some debate it was agreed, that she should give him sufficient encouragement to make an assignation, when he and his witnesses being properly disposed, the common expedient of a prosecution, or an ample compensation for hush money, (the gallant being a married man) with a commission for the husband, was to terminate the amour, and deliver them from further difficulties; but the event proved very different from what they expected from this well concerted scheme.

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* His lordship being admitted as a visitor by the lady two or three times, (when she always contrived on various pretences to postpone the consummation of his desires) it unfortunately happened, that it entered into the head of one of the intended witnesses, that he should get more by revealing the business to the peer, than the trifling gratuity (offered by the husband) as an evidence, on which he immediately disclosed the whole, and received a handsome present for his pains; and finding the other witness, by his account, was a fellow of the same stamp, the peer sent for him, and made him a present to the same amount, also promising them as much more if they would follow his instructions on the day appointed, and to pay all expences in the execution of his counterplot. He then directed them to get their employer to a public house, two hours before the time of action, and under pretence of drinking success to the undertaking, to make him drunk; but lest this should fail, or they should play him booty, he associated his own servant with them, who was to come in as a stranger very much in liquor, and treat the whole company till they were all in the same condition.

* Every thing being prepared, his lordship went at the appointed hour, and to the utter astonishment (though no great displeasure) of my mistress, reaped without any interruption the fruits of his ingenuity. In vain was the concerted signal made, no husband and witnesses appeared; when it was not till an hour after his lordship's departure, that he was brought home, literally speaking, dead drunk; and this adventure

ture had a more fragical conclusion than any of the parties had foreseen ; for the corporal finding he was drinking at free cost, presently drowned all recollection of past, present, or to come, pouring down liquid fire, in such capacious draughts of raw spirits, that he was carried to his bed in the condition above mentioned, from which he never rose again.

C H A P. XI.

The intoxication of Vanity, so destructive to the Heart, succeeded by one as destructive to the Head. He changes his service.

‘**T**HE remainder of her history will be comprised in very few words. Freed from the restrictions of her departed sot, she entered into the profession to which she was obligated for her liberty, and placing all she had done to the account of the deceased, for some time drew a comfortable subsistence from his lordship’s bounty. On his death she levied contributions on the public, being a new face, with very good success, when the chapter of accidents began to fail her, and some ill fortune incident to the profession she had taken up, overwhelmed her with poverty and distress, until she accidentally one night solicited the company of an elderly gentleman, who, after shaking her off, uttered an exclamation of sorrow and surprise, when she directly knew him for the ancient friend of her husband, who had been the means of introducing her daughter to his father’s care, and had been for several years abroad. Having made up a plausible story to excite his compassion, he gave her something to supply her present wants, and ordered her to see him the next day. The intermediate time she employed in considering what advantage she could make of this fortunate event.

event. She then recollected that her daughter (about whom she had given herself no concern, and who had continued at the school where she had been placed by her grand-father under the care of his executor and trustee) had an independant fortune. The next day she waited on the old gentleman, from whom she received a handsome present, and who, after much good advice, (of which he might have spared himself the trouble) promised to interest himself in her future welfare, and accordingly settled her in the situation of a laundress at court, an office she executed by means of subordinate hands, while she drew a salary with which she might have lived with competence and ease. Ever restless, turbulent, and weak, instead of enjoying with decency the comforts she had obtained, and the profits she made of her first floor, with which she might have appeared in a line of life beyond mediocrity, no sooner was she settled, than she began to resume the consideration by what means she could make an advantage of her daughter's fortune, for which purpose, she consulted a pettifogger with whom she had got acquainted since her husband's death.

* Between them they gave the trustee so much trouble, that to be rid of them he threw Sophia into Chancery, when her property being secured, the guardianship of her person was adjudged, till further orders to her mother, who, disappointed in her pecuniary views, sought for comfort in those obliterating draughts which had proved so fatal to her spouse; the temporary frenzy of which always operated on the innocent
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and accomplished girl whom she abused with the utmost malignity, till the strength of her lungs being exhausted, and the vehemence supported by the spirit of her potations evaporating together, she generally sunk into a degree of fawning servility, as abject as her drunken fit had been arrogant and malign; suggested by the consideration that it was not her interest to exasperate her daughter, who might have it in her power to deliver her from the consequences of her extravagance when she came of age; a specimen of which contrasted behaviour she had given (as related) in the very short time I had been in her possession, equally productive of disgust.

‘ To return to that period, which has been so long interrupted by the former part of my mistress’s life—The commencement of the reconciliatory dialogue between the mother and the daughter, was broke in upon by the entrance of their lodger, who addressing the mother said, ‘ I believe, madam, my week is up to-day,’ presenting her with a piece of gold, and receiving me among other pieces in exchange, he then took leave with a look in which was blended tenderness and respect to the lovely girl, and declining their invitation to sit down, he returned with me in his pocket up stairs, and presently retired for the night—but not to rest.

If I was surprised at the first sight of a person of his figure in such a situation, I was more so to find he was a gentleman of a genteel estate, and nearly related to one of the principal persons concerned in the late treasonable plot; from enter-
ing

ing into which, he had in vain endeavoured to dissuade his infatuated kinsman. Foreseeing its miscarriage, and apprehensive that the prodigality and rapacity of the prince might induce him to confiscate the estates, not only of the conspirators themselves, but also those of their relations and dependants, he went with the utmost anxiety to consult a gentleman, who by the patronage of my master's father, had risen from an inferior clerk in a public office, to a station where he had accumulated a princely fortune. This *worthy* personage, after due consideration, suggested an expedient for the preservation of the estate, in case he was involved in the fate of his kinsman. This was, that he should execute purchase deeds of the premises to him, and to prevent accidents he would immediately make a will, bequeathing my master a sum equivalent to the full value thereof.

‘ With an implicit confidence in one whom he had such great reason to imagine was his sincere friend, he went to their common attorney, and giving him an account of the business in hand, the necessary deeds were drawn and executed without delay. When all fears upon his own account had subsided, he went to his friend to cancel the deeds, the subsistence of which were no longer needful for the safety of his property. At first he met with a difficulty in finding him at home or disengaged, and when at last he obtained an interview, he was for a long time terrified with repeated representations of the still dangerous predicament in which he stood; but this being obviated by the proclamation of a general

neral pardon from the sovereign (who wanted to reconcile all parties to himself) he was advised by his friend to quit the kingdom, as his relation had been excepted therein by name, on account of his having twice before received the royal clemency, and at length had fled the country.

But as he now began to suspect his friend, he chose rather to remain in his present habitation, where he had at first taken refuge, in preference to emigration, being more agreeable to himself, more convenient to his affairs, and where he would never be searched for, as he had changed his name. His situation was truly uncomfortable; he had stripped himself of his patrimony, and lain at the mercy of an unprincipled villain, who had taken advantage of his fears to obtain a legal title to his paternal lands, and he had nothing to depend on but a year's income, which he had brought with him to his present lodging. He was also desperately in love with, and equally beloved by the daughter of his hostess, whose heart he had won without the allurements of interest in his present equivocal appearance, and he was overwhelmed with disappointment, horror and despair.

‘ The morning after I came into his possession, having passed a sleepless night, he had risen and was eating his solitary meal, ruminating on the melancholy prospect which opened to his view, when he received a visit from the attorney who had prepared the fatal cause of all his woe. On my master's lamenting the consequence thereof,

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Young gentleman (replied the lawyer, the goodness of whose heart was apparent in the benignity of his face) why would you be so positive, precipitate and rash? I have often told you that the opportunities my profession afforded me of knowing this man, convinced me he was a villain; he deceived your father, but he could not impose on me, he has now deceived, and thinks he has undone his son; with an ingratitude only to be equalled by his avarice, he hugs himself in the sordid enjoyment of the reflection, that at the age of sixty, he has outwitted a youth of twenty-one. His whole life has been a series of despicable cunning and low chicane; but the time is at hand when justice shall demand her due.

‘ His numerous peculations are on the eve of being brought to light, and that by a channel he little thinks of. All his immense property will be swallowed up in the retribution which the defrauded public claims, and your estate must have gone among the rest. Of all the essentials necessary for our good success in life, nothing exceeds experience, and happy are they who have an opportunity to acquire that valuable article, by observation on the mistakes of others, or even by a timely sense of their own errors, at a reasonable and not destructive price. I congratulate you on this fortunate event, of which I hope you will make proper use, and I am happy in the agreeable reflection, that I have returned the obligation due to your worthy father, by the preservation of his son. There sir, (continued he, pulling out of his pocket a parchment and a paper, the latter being a copy of the former) go boldly
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and demand your writings. This parchment is a declaration of trust, and power of revocation, by which it appears, that the conveyance you have executed is only a settlement in trust, to bar an entail of the estate, in which I also am a trustee. There is a clause also in the conveyance which he little dreams of; for his extreme eagerness to conclude the affair, as you may recollect, prevented his perusing the deed itself, and I believe he might have been imposed on, to have signed to his own destruction. Go, shew him the copy, and tell him the original is in my hands; he will not dare to mention it to me, or if he does, I have only followed the instructions he gave me, in such a method as I thought most effectual myself, to answer those purposes he dared avow, though I have prevented him from perverting their operation to the ruin of yourself. This I might have done by unfolding the scoundrel to your own perception, but I had reasons corresponding to your welfare, for giving you an undeniable instance of his bad intents; go, and for the future be more upon your guard.'

'It is impossible to describe the sensations of my master on this occasion; surprise, joy, and gratitude acted so forcibly on his nerves, that like a child he fairly bedewed the attorney with his tears, whom as his guardian angel he repeatedly embraced. On his departure he directly went to the party, when having with much difficulty, by dint of bribing his domestics, obtained an interview, he peremptorily demanded the writings of

his estate, but meeting with nothing but evasions, he gave him the paper, telling him the original was in the attorney's care. Being with much persuasion prevailed on to read it, and finding it an absolute defeasance of that in his own possession, he exhibited, for a few moments, a most ridiculous picture of disappointed avarice and detected fraud; but on reflection on the figure he made, he turned the whole into a jest, and delivered up the deeds, professing that he had only diverted himself a little at his expence, and meant it as a lesson to inculcate future circumspection, lamenting the trouble and expence he had been at to secure himself from a danger which existed only in his own imagination, (here indeed he spoke the truth) and with the greatest good humour wished him a good day.

“ With a light heart the young gentleman returned to his lodgings, and immediately writing to his steward to send up his equipage, he hired a genteel house in town, to which he soon removed; and to the utter astonishment of all who knew her, demanded his Sophia, (whom he had privately married on retrieving his estate) as his wife, on whose mother he settled a comfortable annuity for her life; but of this I was not an eye witness, as he had given me to the servant that had procured him the last interview with the person who would have deprived him of his estate, by whom I was given in charge to his master on that very day.

C H A P. XII.

His new Master, with perfect uniformity of character, engages in an undertaking which promises great advantage, but is disappointed, and the bitter bit.

AFTER the transaction last recited, it will be needless to say any thing of the character of my new possessor, being sufficiently represented as capable of any thing, for the glory of that kingdom which he will one day inherit. I was only witness to another unsuccessful attempt of his consummate villany, before I left him. Imposed on by his specious hypocrisy, and profound skill in the art of dissimulation, a gentleman, his distant relation, had left him guardian to his daughter, an only child with a large fortune, which she was to inherit on condition she married a particular person, between whose father and the testator there had been a previous agreement to that effect, to the no great satisfaction of their respective children, who were only actuated by a convenient attachment for each other. But as the lady's father had set his heart upon the match, he had bequeathed one half of his wealth, in

case of her taking another husband, *unless the refusal came from him*, to my master, immediately on such an event taking place, with the reversion of the remainder at her death—*provided nevertheless that her conduct was such as to give no just cause in the opinion of two impartial persons, quite disinterested in the event, for his rejection of her hand.* In which case she was to be liable to the same diminution and restriction in her expectations, as she would have been, had she refused to marry him herself. Here were two contingencies on which the guardian built his hopes of acquiring one moiety of the estate directly, and the other at a future day, to which he would be entitled either by her refusal, of which there was little probability, or by the commission of some dishonourable act to occasion *his*, of which there was little less.

‘ Though there was a greater difficulty to prevent her principles, than to divert the course of what could scarcely be called her affection, as he thought if he could effect an apparent deviation in the former so as to exasperate her lover, (who was a rigid methodist) the latter would certainly be accomplished, he resolved by some stratagem to inspire him with disgust at her principles; and he had good reasons to flatter himself with being much assisted by a certain precipitate irritability in her disposition, which was too impatient ever to pardon the least suspicion of her unblemished conduct, and most rigid adherence to the rules of virtue. Could he therefore once represent her in such a light, that her lover should offend

send her beyond forgiveness, he was sure of her breaking off the match ; or could he but embark her in any act of juvenile indiscretion, or at least what should appear so to him, he was quite certain of his doing the same, both of which would equally answer his desired end. For some time, however, he was undetermined on what plan to proceed, but that he might not be wanting in a proper party, to take the advantage of any favourable circumstance which might offer, he invited to his house a youth dependant on himself, who was admirably well qualified for the part he intended he should act, either as a lover or in any other capacity, as occasion should require. At length the time of action drew on ; on the publication of a masquerade, his ward (who had never seen that entertainment) earnestly desired to partake of the diversion, and that her stay might not be confined by the complaisance due to a party, she wished to go with her guardian and a friend only.

‘ Pleased with the hopes which he directly conceived that something might arise to promote his grand design, he gladly consented, and the rather as he knew her lover (to whom this expedition was to be a secret) had been bred up in the strictest doctrine of puritanical zeal, and would look on such a profane indulgence with the utmost horror and contempt, could not fail to reproach her with a breach of promise, not to frequent those infamous assemblies, and perhaps express his disgust in a manner which might occasion
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an irreparable breach. At first he did not think of reaping any further benefit from this exploit, but a little consideration sufficed to convince him, that he might with address make it productive of more efficacious ends. Having tutored his dependant (at whose visits and particular behaviour to his mistress, the lover had often taken umbrage, and who had been encouraged with hopes of making himself master of the lady's person, and her life interest in the ample moiety of her large possessions) he contrived just before their setting out, to administer a few grains of Ipecacuanha to his ward, by which means she had not been there above half an hour, before she was taken so exceeding sick that she was obliged to return. He had before ordered his servant to go to the lover, to postpone an appointment they had made for that night, to sup out with a common friend of them both, with instruction to say, 'He was gone to the masquerade with *miss* and the handsome gentleman who came to their house so often'—this he did, foreseeing that the gentleman, averse as he was to such a scene of folly, riot, and excess, might be tempted to go in cog, to make observations on the effect it had on his intended wife, in which conjecture he was right. 'Are you sure,' says he to the man, 'that *miss* is gone with them? and do you know what dresses they went in?' 'Yes, sir,' says the fellow, 'they all tried their dresses on the day before yesterday, my master looked just like the old man that was killed at the supper in the play last night, (which was Alexander) the young gentleman was like the
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king that killed him, and miss had a little crown upon her head, like the lady who was stabbed by the jealous queen.'

' Having thus got the necessary information, he was determined to follow Alexander, Clitus, and Statira, and wrapping himself up in a domino, was presently conveyed to a place, which nothing but his eager curiosity on the present interesting occasion, could have prevailed on him to enter. In the mean time, the gentleman had returned in company with a woman of the town, properly tutored of the same size, who having clothed herself in Statira's robes and all the decorations of that unfortunate princess, behaved herself with such a degree of indecent levity, and was guilty of such absurd indecorum, giving into every licentious liberty that the intoxication of the gaudy scene inspired, that it was no wonder her concealed lover, (as he thought himself) who was so near as to hear every word she said, from that moment conceived for her a most unsurmountable disgust, which was heightened, if it was possible, when on her being asked what she thought her intended would say, she, according to her instructions, burst into an immoderate fit of laughter, then ridiculed his grave and austere disposition, with the most provoking acerbity, and declared she did not care what any body said, who would be the means of preventing her enjoyment of such enchanting pleasures, as she then experienced; after which she pretended to be taken ill, and was conducted by the gentlemen out of the house, which

which she presently re-entered in another habit to follow the call of her profession, while two more of the sisterhood, at a signal given, detained the lover there, and in spite of a slight inclination he felt to follow them, and come to an immediate explanation with his mistress, contrived to keep him a full hour; in the course of which, exasperated as he was, he was tempted to give into the extravagancies of the place, and two or three glasses of champagne, to which he was totally unaccustomed, sent him home in a state which he had never known before.

‘ In the conduct of this business, my master had displayed most exquisite address; the great difficulty was, to obviate the explanation which might ensue on the subject of his ward’s being taken ill and retiring; he therefore made her representative perform the second part of the same exhibition, and as there was not an hour between the departure of the original and the copy, and all circumstances corresponding, he was under no apprehensions of detection; as to his implements, they were entirely ignorant of the effects their conduct was to produce, for he never let them into more than was absolutely necessary to insure success in the part they were assigned, and as he always paid well, he had a gang of wretches at his command, ready to execute whatever he enjoined. The event was obvious, and surpassed his most sanguine expectations. The lover disdain-
ing at first, after what he had seen, to re-
proach her in person, sent her a long letter, dic-
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tated in a style of authoratative resentment, mixed with puritanical commiserating insult at the discovery of her abandoned behaviour, *and an express refusal to carry her father's plan into execution*; to which she sent an answer, dictated by the offended pride of conscious virtue, ill calculated to promote a reconciliation.

‘ Startled at this, and never dreaming that her resentment would get the better of all consideration for her interest, he determined to visit her. With much difficulty having got access to her, on his entering into the subject, she would not condescend to give him the least satisfaction, and he not making any doubt of what he thought he knew by the evidence of his eyes and ears, (her guardian, for obvious reasons, declining to interfere, and the lover having too great an antipathy to his dependant, to seek any intelligence from him) they parted, with a mutual resolution never to meet again, on the most inimical terms. But when he came to recollect what a fortune he should lose, and that possibly the imprudence she had been guilty of, might be more the effects of the scene in which she was engaged, than any depravity of heart, which had before never indicated the least tendency to be corrupt, he determined to leave nothing untried to retrieve the favour he had lost. But all his efforts were in vain, she absolutely refused to see him, avoided all places where she was likely to meet him, and returned his numerous epistles as they came. At length (her guardian, to save appearances, feebly

interfering in his behalf) to be thoroughly revenged, she gave encouragement to the young dependant, who had not been deficient in improving the present posture of affairs, and in a few days delivered herself from further importunities, by privately giving him her hand.

‘ It is a true saying, that when rogues fall out honest people come by their own. My master now hoped to reap the fruits of his contrivances, when all his expectations were frustrated by an unforeseen blow from a quarter he little expected, which he in vain exerted all his art to turn aside. The husband of his ward, feeling himself hurt by the consideration, that throughout the whole process, he had been only considered as a tool, and harbouring an ancient grudge against my master, for certain humiliating degradations, neglects, and breaches of promise to provide for, and render him independant, (which were never intended to be performed) thought he had now an opportunity to do himself justice. In a day or two after his marriage, he hinted to his patron, that when he was at leisure, he would wait on him to receive his wife’s fortune. ‘ Fortune, sir,’ replied the other, ‘ you know she is entitled to nothing now by her marrying you, but the interest of one moiety for life, the reversion of which is in me, and the principal of the other half is a vested interest, and already my own property. Fortune, indeed, I think you are one of the most fortunate fellows I ever knew, but set a beggar on horseback——’ ‘ Sir,’ replied the husband,

band, with great humility, at the same time reddening with a conscious sensibility of the application of the proverb) ‘ I believe my wife has done nothing to forfeit her patrimony, she has been refused by the person, who by her father’s will was nominated, we have proof of that, and I humbly apprehend——’ ‘ You apprehend, what are your apprehensions to me ?’ interrupted my master, in violent passion, ‘ I apprehend you are an insolent scoundrel. You prove his refusal ! (entirely ignorant of the letter the lover had first wrote to her the morning after the masquerade, in the heat of his indignation) has she not married you privately ? damn you, get out of my house, and never let me see your face again.’ A command he did not give him opportunity to repeat, but instantly retired.

‘ The moment he got home, he drew up a case, stating the will of his wife’s father, with the letter from the angry lover above-mentioned ; whereby it appeared, that he had rejected her in the most unequivocal terms, and having obtained a favourable opinion of an eminent lawyer thereon, he ordered an attorney to wait on his late patron, shew him the whole, and threaten him with a suit, if he did not directly come to an account, which after a few subterfuges, he preferred to an uncertain litigation, that in its process would discover what it was so much his interest to conceal. I should have mentioned to you, that the day before the marriage, I passed into the hands of the husband, at a game at quadrille, who

who being a Catholic, was married both according to the Protestant and Romish ceremonies used on that occasion. At the latter of which, I was presented in a weighty purse to the titular Catholic metropolitan before mentioned, by which means the two receptacles of my divided spirit became the property of that honorary priest.

CHAP. XIII.

He again enters into the service of the Fair Sex.

A Step from the Poor house to a Palace. He approximates the Throne. A singular royal Expedition, and a ridiculous instance of Female Caprice.

THE time now approached when I was to attend to the grand object of my mission. I therefore concentrated my essence in that sacred vehicle wherein it was originally lodged, which was presented in a few days after the last adventure, by the right reverend owner, to the mother of the then favourite at court, (whose pastor he was) well knowing he should in good time receive an acknowledgment of three times the value in return therefor. If my former mistress seemed to have been born under unhappy auspices, some fortunate planet presided at the birth of this. She was the daughter of a younger son of a family, which had formerly been reckoned in that class of happy mediocrity, denominated the gentry. But the numerous families of succeeding generations by dividing, had so diminished the bulk of the estate by participation, (as they would not condescend to improve their prospects by the

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contamination of trade) that the descendants languished under all the rigours of mental and corporal sufferings of ill contrasted poverty and pride. At length my mistress's parents, after having existed (rather than enjoyed life) in indolent obscurity to a good old age, left her a prey to the misery concomitant to worldly want. Happily she was too young to become the object of concupiscent vice, and she was taken by that public reservoir, for such whom neither consanguinity can claim, nor humanity will protect,—the parish. In fact she was nobody's, for all their endeavours were in vain to exonerate themselves, the family being extinct in her, nor could she be said to belong to any body.

• Whether owing to any superiority of understanding, or the prevalence of blood, she soon shewed (though she enjoyed no peculiar advantages) she was infinitely superior to her companions in the same predicament. When the time drew near that she was to be put out prentice, she was noticed by a lady at church, for the dignity of her air, and uncommon beauty of her person. An impression which was so much improved by an examination of her mental qualities, that the lady had her articulated to herself. At first she was employed in the kitchen, in rather an inferior capacity, but repeated complaints having been made, that instead of minding her business below, she was continually reading such books as she could secretly procure from above, her master examined her, and she acquitted herself

self so well, that he recommended to his wife to take her out of the kitchen, and to retain her about her person, with which she immediately complied, and she was employed in reading and working for her patroness, to whose disposition she so well accustomed herself, that she soon became her favourite and confident. The strength of her intellectual faculties encreasing, as the flower of her beauty expanded, she became the object of honourable addresses to those of equal rank, and of iniquitous designs to such as thought their superiority entitled them to treat her with libertine disrespect; but she received the first with a steady refusal, delivered in such grateful terms, that they precluded all imputation of unwarrantable pride, while she treated the latter with the most mortifying contempt. Her conduct was such, as if she had foreseen she was one day to govern him who ruled the state, though as yet it was impossible to entertain the most distant idea of such an improbable event, while she filled all who knew her with admiration and esteem, at a perseverance for which no one could account, and which it is necessary to explain.

‘ Her master was a man of strict probity, but though he always was so observant of his duty, as to restrain his passions within due bounds, and never suffered himself to be transported into any unjustifiable excess, yet it was not always in his power to direct them to the proper object, as in the present case; for he was cruelly tormented
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by a most violent passion for my mistress; his struggles between which, and the remonstrances of the duty and gratitude he owed to a wealthy wife, often reduced him to such a state of health, as bid defiance to the power of medicine, and seemed to threaten in the end to terminate his life; the rather as his honour forbade him to divulge (what he thought was a secret) from the object of his flame, a circumstance, the concealment of which acted with additional vigour on the anxiety of his mind, especially as there was but an uncertain prospect of his ever being at liberty to obtain the subject of his thoughts.

‘ My mistress, who to the advantages she enjoyed by her advancement to his family, added by nature an uncommon share of penetration, saw through all his endeavours to hide the secret which undermined his peace; she knew it before he was aware of it himself. She also knew that her mistress had a secret complaint, (to which none but her physician and herself were privy) which in the course of a very few years would give her an opportunity to practice on that heart, which she had reason to suspect was already more than half her own, and obtain an honourable settlement for life. The intermediate time she spent in seizing every opportunity of improving her mind, so as to render her worthy of the station to which she had aspired. Every thing succeeded to her wish, her mistress died, and on her death bed, after thanking her husband

band for his affectionate behaviour during their union, to his great surprize told him she had for some time been no stranger to his secret attachment to my mistress, but though it was a topic she did not formerly chuse to enter upon, she wished to express her sense of what he had suffered, through the secrecy he had preserved on a subject which must give her pain to hear of, thro' the officious voice of scandal, and pretended friendship. She then sent for my mistress, and after a few minutes conversation with her alone, she joined their hands, and the next day expired in their arms.

‘She had now attained the height of her ambition, though not of her fortune. After a decent period of widowhood, she was married to her master, who having passed a few happy years with her, left her the mother of a son that made so rapid a progress at court, that he, by the unlimited regard of his prince, became the channel of his favour, and ruled the empire with the same unbounded sway, with which my mistress governed him.

‘Her son (to whom about this period she presented me) was as firmly connected with the heir apparent, as with the sovereign, by that tie assuring to himself in case of his succession by his father's death, the same situation in the succeeding as the present reign. Soon after I came into his possession, he inspired the prince with the idea
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of an exploit, which at the same time that it filled all Europe with astonishment, was attended with infinite peril to himself. This was to court his mistress in person. Struck with the novelty and gallantry attached to such an extraordinary feat, and highly delighted with the expected pleasure of an expedition, divested of the reiterated and disgusting etiquette of court parade, he gave into the design with a degree of precipitation which surpassed the favourite's hopes, (whose political motives for suggesting this admirable jaunt, I shall not trouble you with) for which he was not a little obliged to me, having by the influence of a superior spirit, been prompted to present me to the prince, a mode by which our more important transitions are effected, we not having that capacity at the option of ourselves.

‘ All obstacles being overcome, we at length set out in high glee, exhibiting to the world a very unusual spectacle, the hereditary successor to a Protestant state, with only three companions in disguise, scampering past through a foreign country, to obtain a previous interview with a Popish bigot, intended for his future comfort. Such were the truly diabolical efforts of Satan and his compeers, to re-establish his kingdom upon earth.

‘ My royal master and his companion, with their attendants, did not pass the limits of their own country without interruption. An embarrassed

raised air of precipitation and confusion, of which they could not divest themselves, owing to certain conscious apprehensions arising from the hazard attending this singular excursion, had induced the sagacious magistrates to regard them as suspicious persons, to which their anxiety, occasioned by the dubious success of what they had undertaken, (against the advice of the more considerate nobles of the privy council) and their extreme expedition, not a little contributed; and he set them down as either flying from the hand of justice, on some unwarrantable pursuit, or going to some more eligible spot to decide an affair of honour, by an honourable duel. In consequence of which, Messieurs Johnson and Smith (under which names they afterwards travelled) were put under an arrest.

‘ This was but a bad omen at the commencement of their journey, and the favourite was under the necessity of making himself known before they could get their liberty, telling the magistrate that he was going to review the fleet, of which he was admiral, omitting to invent any pretence for concealing his arrival, which indeed on so public an occasion would have been difficult to find; by this they were involved in further trouble, for the day being too far advanced, so that they could not proceed till the next morning, (it being in the month of February, frosty with intervals of snow, and the evenings unfavourably dark and cold) the worthy magistrate not only
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summoned the principal persons in the town to attend him early to compliment his lordship, but officiously sent off a boat to the fleet, to publish his arrival; so that instead of pursuing their way in secrecy and silence, the whole town was in an uproar; the magistrates in their formalities, were at the gate of the inn, the garrison was under arms, the guns were fired, and the captains of the several ships were landing to receive their orders from their chief. It fortunately happened that my master's person was not known to any of those who had seen him the day of their arrival, (for as yet they had not thought it necessary to put on their disguises) but as it was next to an impossibility that he should remain unknown among the great concourse which on this occasion were soon collected, he, under pretence of illness, was obliged to keep his room.

“They were now in an unpleasant dilemma, and at night they held a consultation, when they came to a resolution to appoint the review to take place the next day but one; that the very next day, at the time when the lord admiral was at dinner with the corporation, a person properly prepared, should come galloping through the town as a king's messenger, to fetch him back to the capital, on business of the greatest consequence without delay, that they should immediately set out, and halt at a town about ten leagues off; whence an express should be sent to the mayor, to fetch him to them, when he

should be let into the secret, and prepare every thing at his town for the accommodation of their journey with secrecy and dispatch the following night; all which was carried into execution, and they entered it accordingly, and in less than an hour were on board a vessel and under sail; after my master had rewarded the mayor by a magnificent pecuniary gratification for his diligence to himself, and complied with an extraordinary request which was made to him by his wife.

‘The important secret with which he had been intrusted, had given him such an air of consequence when he returned home, to obey their commands, that his wife presently perceived something extraordinary was in agitation, nor was she satisfied, when on her request to know on what account he was sent for, he said it was only some repairs to be made by the water side, previous to the review, which was postponed till next week, and some other instructions which at their hasty departure they had forgot, for this night, as she observed, as well have been communicated by a letter. But as she could get nothing satisfactory from him, and finding him full of important bustle, accompanied with mysterious reserve, she gave instructions to her son to watch his motions, who was so diligent in executing her orders, that he soon discovered he had privately hired and manned a vessel to be ready at a moment’s warning

warning. The poor woman (their circumstances not being in a flourishing state) now conceived an idea that he was going to leave her. Having once adopted this notion, she importuned her husband so incessantly with her apprehensions, and reproached him so bitterly with his supposed cruelty, in deserting her at such a time, (as she was near lying in) that after administering an oath of secrecy, he discovered the whole affair.

‘No sooner did she hear that his highness would be at their house at night, than she entertained the most extravagant and vehement fancy, that at such a juncture could enter into the head of woman. In vain did her husband represent the danger of exposing him to his highness’s resentment for imparting the secret to her knowledge; that so imprudent, absurd, and disrespectful a proceeding might be the means of frustrating all hopes he had conceived of the future establishment of his fortune, by the favour he might now acquire from the prince, when he should hereafter come to be his sovereign; and when he flatly denied to indulge her, by the communication of her ridiculous whim, she fell into such strong hysterics, that he trembled for the consequence. On her recovery she seemed determined to obtain at her own desire what he refused her to procure; and being more apprehensive of such an abrupt attack upon his highness, than his own interposition, he pro-

promised her to take a proper opportunity of gratifying her wish.

‘Their guests being arrived, and regaled in the best manner their short notice would admit; his worship, after expressing his sense of the honour they had done him, addressing my master, told him that he laboured under the most bitter anxiety, from which it was alone in his power to relieve him before he departed from his house: he then proceeded to inform him that it had been impossible to make the necessary dispositions for his journey without the knowledge of his wife, whose secrecy he could depend on; but that on knowing who was to be her guest, she had a petition to prefer, of so extraordinary a nature, that he did not dare to mention it, unless he would graciously please to insure him from his highness’s displeasure, by an anticipating pardon for what he was going to relate. He then fell upon his knees, and with tears besought my master to have compassion on his miserable wife and innocent offspring yet unborn, concluding with an assurance that nothing but the strong fits which she had endured on his refusal to intercede in her behalf, could have prevailed on him to be guilty of such an indecorum, as he feared would involve him in disgrace.

‘Astonished at this extraordinary speech and conduct of the mayor, curiosity and pity superseded

fed every other impression, and he assured him, that if he could with the least degree of propriety grant her request, he would comply therewith, but if he could not, he certainly should pardon whatever was amiss in a petition which was preferred with such modesty, and for which the motives of humanity pleaded in excuse, commanding him to speak. The mayor, after many reflexions on the absurdity of female caprice, then informed my master that she wished for the honour of a *royal salute*. 'A royal salute,' cried the prince, in the greatest surprise, (taking her in the literal sense) 'that is not in my power to perform, she must apply to the commanding officer of the garrison, but do you consider what a disturbance will ensue on firing one and twenty guns?' 'Royal sir,' returned his worship, 'let me entreat you will pardon her presumption, when I inform you that it is not a military salute she desires; but one your highness can alone bestow, in short I say, but do not be offended, she languishes for the honour of a royal kiss.' Seated as my master was by nature and even observant to preserve his dignity by due reserve, it was with the utmost difficulty he could contain his mirth at this ridiculous petition, urged with such ceremonious grave solemnity, by his trembling host. With the greatest benignity he desired the lady mayorefs (who at one counter retailed gloves and stockings, while her husband at the other dealt in hats) might appear, making a genteel apology for his unpolite neglect, pleased
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to find that her request was of such a nature as not to lay him under the necessity of mortifying her with a refusal to bestow an office on her husband for which he was not fit.

‘ In the mean-time the lady was sitting dressed out for the purpose, in all the trepidation of doubtful expectancy, to be exceeded only by her joy at receiving a summons to go down, when a difficulty occurred to her, the idea of which had been lost in the ardour of soliciting the favour; which was, how she should behave on the occasion, and whether she should kiss the prince, or the prince kiss her: this together with the awkward light in which she was going to appear confounded her so, that before she could arrive at the parlour door, she half repented at having brought herself into such a scrape, and could scarce muster courage to enter the room; but my master’s politeness instantly relieved her anxiety, when not taking the least notice of what had passed, he took her by the hand, and with the greatest affability saluting her, told her he could not depart without returning her thanks for the trouble she had taken on his account, and immediately fell into a conversation calculated for her to bear a part, such as the entertainments of the town, roads, markets, &c. till all being ready, he repeated his salute, and took his leave; after giving her a topic of conversation on which she never failed to descant, on every opportunity for the remainder of her life, affording a special subject for the garrulity of age.

C H A P. XIV.

*Continued—More disasters.—Royalty in durance
with a happy termination of a rash adventure.*

THE travellers now proceeded unmolested, till they arrived in the territories of a foreign prince, when the perpetrators of a capital forgery on a bank in Holland, as it unfortunately happened, had been traced by the magisterial terriers, to within a few leagues of where the company stopped to change horses; as they travelled post, to avoid the observation that the eclat of an equipage would have excited on the road. Being then at a fault (as the sportsmen term it) they of course proceeded to the next large town, for intelligence of their game, and lodged at the same inn with us. Many suspicious appearances concurring, the whole company were apprehended, but by means of some irresistible arguments, were permitted to remain at their lodgings, under a sufficient guard to prevent all possibility of escape. It would have been easy to have procured their enlargement, by an appeal to their ambaffador, to whom the persons of all the party were well known.

known. But being a Protestant, he was very ill disposed towards the subject of their exploit, and moreover a bitter enemy to the favourite himself, therefore might possibly have contrived to embarrass the negotiation in such a manner, that before they could proceed, a recall might have been procured; they therefore chose to remain in distance till the arrival of a person who was sent for from the bank, to identify their persons, or clear them of the charge, the latter of which was soon performed, and as they professed they were only travelling for amusement, to be present at the approaching nuptials of a neighbouring prince, they were suffered to depart, and they continued their journey to a city famous for the strength of its fortifications, and splendour of its wealth.

‘Here while my master and the favourite were strolling about, the latter unfortunately took out his pocket book, to make a memorandum, while he stood on one of the principal bastions of the fort, in consequence of which he was arrested as a spy, in the very act of drawing a plan of the fortifications, and they were both immediately put under a guard, and conducted to the prison of the garrison, their appearance not a little conducing to the rough treatment they received, their heads being enveloped in black bushy wigs, and the rest of their apparel favouring strongly of disguise and fraud. It was a very providential circumstance that this city belonged to the go-

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vernment.

vernment, (being a a frontier town) the capital of which was to terminate their journey: they therefore desired to be conducted to the commanding officer, as they had some discoveries to make, which nearly concerned the welfare of the state. Being admitted to his presence, they pulled off their disguises and avowed their rank, but received for answer that he durst do nothing in a matter of such consequence, without the orders of the governor, to whom he immediately went and imparted this extraordinary discovery. The old general, though he had heard a rumour of the intended match between my master and the princess royal, was not so credulous as to give implicit credit to a tale so improbable, as that of the prince and favourite in a situation quite inconsistent with their quality, without further proof; a story, which according to the system of his own country's arbitrary and pompous constitution, ever jealous of its dignitorial rights, and the general political creed, was almost impossible to be true. On the other hand the royal deportment of the prince, when he resumed himself, and the elegant air of his companion, threw him into the utmost embarrassment; while at one time he regarded them as a company of sharpers of the most dangerous cast, and at another was staggered by their external appearance, and the exact account they gave of the transactions of their own court. He therefore wisely determined to detain them beyond all possibility of escape, and at the same time, to treat them in such a manner,

manner, as should exempt him from incurring their resentment, should they prove to be the persons they pretended; in the mean time sending off an exprefs to the capital, with an account of the perplexity in which he was involved.— This, however, did not in the least tend to ascertain the truth, for my master before he set out, had with a view of enjoying the pleasure of agreeable surprise to the object of his expedition, obtained a promise from his father, that he would not anticipate the news of his arrival, by any official, or private intimation of his design. The suspicions therefore of the governor were confirmed by the answer he received, and their confinement was rendered more rigorous and close, till some step should be taken to convict them of their deception. The news of this transaction presently spread over the country, and people of all denominations flocked to the town, to obtain a sight of a knight errant, who had the audacity to cover his intentions by assuming the name of the future spouse intended for their royal house.

• The governor had a daughter, a lady of great beauty and accomplishments, insomuch that she had been removed from court, that she might not be liable to the assiduities of the hereditary prince, who had begun to distinguish her by too apparent marks of his peculiar regard. She had seen the princess royal, my master's intended consort, who she knew did not boast of any charms that could attract a prince, who had the gallantry

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to come so far, and run such hazards to obtain a previous interview with the partner of his crown. On the other hand, she very justly concluded, that he had already evinced a disposition not to be controled in the election of a wife, by mere political regards. This consideration was on the presumption that he really was entitled to the rank he had assumed. She had among her women one who had been in that capacity to the lady of the ambassador, to the prince's court, and had told her mistress she thought she could recollect the person of the prince, as she had got into the gallery at a masquerade ball; and seen him dance a minuet; this woman she ordered to go see the prisoners, and tell her whether he was actually so or not, but to let no person whatever into the result of her survey. By some confusion in her ideas, she mistook one of the two gentlemen who made up their company for the prince, she remembered the favourite as a gentleman of the court, (he having not then arisen to the important post he now filled) but of my master she had not the least recollection; nor was this to be wondered at, as he was so metamorphosed from what he was when she saw him, that a person who had never beheld him but once, and that at a distance when he unmasked for a few minutes, might easily be mistaken. There was also another reason, which might contribute to her error, the dress this gentleman wore by way of disguise, was of the same colour and somewhat of the fashion, with a false beard, as his highness had

on at the masquerade: when she was shewn the person who called himself the prince, (my master) she concluded that for his preservation, they had concealed him under the habit of an attendant, while the attendant personated the prince, in case of accidents they might encounter on their road; of all which she made a faithful report to her mistress, who thereon built a ridiculous project of supplanting her royal highness, and eloping with the prince.

‘ The rooms in which they were confined were parted from those appropriated to her own use, by a long gallery, and the key of the door which opened into it, was in the possession of an officer entirely devoted to her confidant, who under pretence of her mistress’s desire to have an unobserved view of these extraordinary prisoners, easily obtained it from her lover. She now had a prospect of acting in a character which she had long wished to personate, and be the heroine of a romance with a prince for a lover, and realize one of those numerous scenes, the perusal of which had almost turned her brain. Accordingly at night, adorned to the best advantage, she went with her woman to visit the distressed knights, and addressing herself to the gentleman told him that she was no stranger to his highness’s disguise, and the motive thereof, ‘ Behold,’ says she, ‘ the resemblance of her royal highness, how ill qualified to reward the gallantry of such an illustrious prince, (producing the picture of the princess) enduring

enduring at this moment such a disgraceful confinement, and subjected to such disgraceful suspicion for her sake ; from which he may quickly be relieved, if he will condescend to accept as the partner of his flight, her who will exert every effort to testify her sense of the honour she enjoys, to the hour of her death.'

' Amazed as they were at this incomprehensible flourish, the person to whom it was addressed winking to his companion as they happened to be all together, made her an answer which favoured her mistake, and entering at once into her character and style, accommodated himself so perfectly to her romantic turn, that they soon came to a proper understanding, while his companions stood aloof, when it was agreed, that his imaginary highness and herself should escape with the rest of the company, through her chamber the next day but one : that they should then part, the lovers one way, and the other three prisoners a different road, on horses to be provided for the purpose ; then they were to make the best of their way to a place appointed for their rendezvous. The lady then retired, highly delighted at the prospect of so enchanting an adventure, the gentlemen in the mean time, though utterly at a loss to explain how the mistake happened, respecting the person of the prince, or to what fortunate event to attribute this unexpected interposition of the lady in their favour, being as much pleased with the prospect of their liberty ;

liberty; when as it fell out the evening before their intended flight, they were saved the trouble of any further contrivance for their delivery, and the lady the reflection she would have incurred, by the desertion from her father's house, with persons who were generally accounted impostors of no common sort, by the arrival of a gentleman from court, well acquainted with the persons of the favourite and prince.

‘ In consequence of this, every thing was done which could be thought of to palliate the offence that had undesignedly been offered to their dignity, to them now only matter of amusement, and to drown the disrespect with which they had been treated, in the public honours to be shewn them in every town through which they were to pass; and it was with the utmost difficulty my master could prevail, to be suffered to finish his journey in the way in which it was begun. The event of the treaty with the fatal consequences of its miscarriage to myself have already been related; and from this period you are to date the commencement of those miseries I experienced in the different transformations I suffered, under the appellation of Argal; as among other indignities when we are banished or confined, we are degraded by the imposition of a name, which has some relation to the materials whereof our prison is composed.

C H A P. XV.

Argal changes his Master, and enters into the service of a Popish Priest, of great business and address.

'O N the rupture of the negotiation, for the connubial union between the royal parties, my master returned, or rather escaped to that kingdom of which he was the undoubted heir; but I, to my great regret, was left behind: for as he gave himself little concern, for an ornament to which he paid no reverence himself, he took a hint of an ecclesiastic, who had visited him by order of his superiors, with a view of improving any prospect he might see, however distant, of a change in his religious tenets. As he was highly entertaining in his conversation, and a most agreeable companion, his highness before his departure, made him several presents, and among the rest the sacred silver emblem in which I was inclosed, having greatly admired the beauty of the workmanship, and expressed a veneration for it, as sanctified by its consecration by the Pope.

'The holy father, on his return to the convent
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spent some time in contemplating the several articles of his highness's munificence, with which he seemed greatly pleased, till he was interrupted by the arrival of a young lady of exquisite beauty, named Donna Teresa, of about sixteen years of age: having seated himself in the confessional chair, where he exercised his holy function, he began to reduce his features to a degree of serenity suitable to the occasion; but much as they were at his command. I could easily perceive it was with the utmost difficulty he could assume that degree of austerity, with which he was peculiarly happy in impressing those who had chosen him for their spiritual director, with reverential awe. While nothing but the extreme simplicity, innate modesty, and blind veneration for her libidinous guide, could have prevented her from being alarmed at the lascivious looks of this execrable wretch. 'Have you considered,' he began, (while his wanton eyes gloated on her downcast face, as she knelt before him, in all the anxiety of expected denunciation of vengeance for acknowledged sin) 'have you considered of the heinous crime of which you have been guilty.—Have you sufficiently recollected that at the very instant you were prostrate at the shrine of the holy virgin, you suffered your spiritual devotions to be intruded on, and diabolically interrupted by worldly wanderings, and carnal thoughts; and such was the power of Satan, into whose possession you seem to have precipitated yourself, that the image of Don Ferdinand, (no doubt a phan-

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from raised by the suggestions of the devil) averted your attention, and stepped before that holy resemblance which should alone have occupied your thoughts? Have you considered, I say, (raising his voice and assuming a look which had almost thrown her into fits) have you a proper sense of the dreadful state in which you are involved, and of the means by which you can make atonement to offended heaven; which as I before exhorted you, is the dedication of those fatal charms of your person, the unhappy cause of your sins, so pernicious to your soul, to that power whom you have so grossly scandalized?"

'It was not directly that his penitent could recollect herself sufficiently to answer this severe expostulation, the terror into which he had thrown her having for a few minutes deprived her of all power of utterance. At length the tears streaming from her eyes, and her beautiful bosom heaving violently with the agitation of her mind, 'Alas, holy father, replied Donna Teresa, 'most gladly would I dedicate the remainder of my life to heaven; most joyfully would I seclude myself from the enjoyments of the world, and by such a renunciation of all my brightest sublunary prospects, expiate my vile offence, of which I entertain the most excruciating sense. But how can I take the holy vows; how can I assume the sacred veil, how can I renounce the world and call my maker to witness to a lye, while still my soul is filled with Ferdinand and love? Oh, holy father,' continued she,

she, clasping her hands, and turning up her streaming eyes in penitential agony, mingled with despair, 'forgive, forgive this involuntary crime, and guide me in the dreadful crisis; teach me to obtain remission of my sins, nor yet incur perdition on my perjured soul.'

'Hardened as my master was in scenes of this nature, his callous heart was for a moment touched by the affecting attitude and pathetic language of Teresa, in which he was addressed, and I could easily perceive he was embarrassed; another reason of which I was not then apprised, and which to my utter astonishment, he soon disclosed to my perception, though the extreme innocence of his penitent unhappily precluded her from the knowledge of the truth until it was too late. When he had enjoined her as a penance, the dedication of her beauty to the holy virgin, he by no means wished her to take the veil, and be a nun. She could not have taken a step more averse to his wishes, or more detrimental to his iniquitous designs; besides, he knew she had an attachment, which militated against such an expedient too powerfully, had it been ever so consonant to his desires, though indeed he might possibly have contrived to have made it subservient thereto in some degree; but she was the only child of Don Pedro D'Aguilar, of an illustrious house, the heiress of an immense fortune, and contracted to Don Ferdinand de Portecarero, the only son of a Spanish grandee; their attachment

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was mutual, and the marriage had only been deferred on account of the youth of the parties, the father of Ferdinand chusing his son should attain his twentieth year before he settled in the world; it would have been solemnized in due time, seeming to be attended with every concomitant circumstance, prognosticating felicity to all parties, directly or relatively concerned. We shall soon see in the developement of contrivances, devised by this worthy member of the holy Catholic church, how all their expectations were frustrated, and the execution of his infernal plots ended, in the consequent destruction of the peace and happiness of two of the noblest and most illustrious families in Spain.

‘Perplexed by the interpretation his penitent had put on the nature of the penance he had enjoined, he meditated in what manner to render it subservient to his abandoned scheme. ‘Daughter,’ says he, softening his tone, ‘be comforted, let me see you again to-morrow, in the mean time I will think of some mode of atonement that may entitle you to an absolution I shall bestow with the same satisfaction you will experience to receive.’

CHAP. XVI.

The confession of another Penitent, whose spiritual concerns are settled, to the mutual satisfaction of all parties interested therein.

‘DONNA Teresa being withdrawn, was succeeded by a penitent of a very different cast. Don Gasper de Ferrara was one of those cavaliers, who inheriting from their parents a large fortune, and from nature as large a portion of spirits, with an unbounded propensity to employ it in the indulgence of voluptuous enjoyments, esteem their pleasure as the law by which they regulate their actions, in the gratification of which they are unrestrained by any considerations, human or divine. My master having taken his seat, ‘I am come,’ says Don Gasper, ‘to acquaint you, that in obedience to your injunctions, I have in vain endeavoured to combat with all my might, the attacks of the irresistible attachment, which absorbs every faculty, in the contemplation of the unparalleled charms of the enchanting Donna Clara, your penitent. Oh! father, my heart is consumed by a devouring flame, which preys upon my life.’—He had fallen in love, as it is called, with a young woman in middling life, called Donna Clara,

Clara, that is, he burnt with ardour for the possession of her person, he knew her confessor's influence over her, as her spiritual guide, he also knew enough of him to be assured of obtaining his assistance at a handsome premium, provided he could only fashion the business, so as to furnish the priest with any plausible pretence for favouring his iniquitous design, that might clothe it in some palliating garb, which might attenuate the atrocity of his necessary aid. For it is an invariable rule with the fraternity, always to preserve appearances, even in the perpetration of the most nefarious deeds.

‘ On this plan, he had hit upon a lucky expedient, to reconcile his participation in the present case, with his sanctimonious regards, and furnish his consummate hypocrisy with a pretence to acquiesce, and possibly to take an active part. On these grounds he proceeded—what I have said, alas, is not the extent of all the evil which I fear may result from my unfortunate passion, and my ill success, may occasion crimes of a much deeper dye than the indulgence of my unhappy love, which without your interposition in its behalf—’

‘ My interposition !’ exclaimed my master, with his brow contracted, and his eyes inflamed, ‘ my interposition ! what, wretch as thou art, would'st thou have me be the pander to thy execrable vice ? dost thou think to make me an accessory to thy profligate conduct ; but you shall be taught to repent your want of reverence to my character, and the affront you offer to the penitential solemnity,

nity, and this holy chair, nor till due atonement is made and accepted by the church, shall'st thou obtain remission of thy sins, I say—yet hold,' cries he softening his voice, as his eyes were attracted by the appearance of a small shagreen case, which Don Gasper contrived to pull out of his pocket, and drop upon the floor as he drew forth his handkerchief, under pretence of drying tears he never shed, but in fact to hide his mirth, excited by the ridiculous part he had been obliged to play, and the exquisite dissimulation of his partner in the scene, 'yet hold,' proceeded the priest, 'methought you said greater crimes would result from your forbearance, from what you have confessed you are compelled by your ungovernable passion to commit: this must be instantly explained.'—'Far be it from me,' replied Don Gasper, assuming an air of the most obsequious humility, 'to offer the least indignity to you, much less to solicit your assistance in any thing derogatory to the honour of that profession you so eminently adorn; and had not your laudable zeal so piously intervened, I should have acquainted you, that I now rather come for your spiritual advice and comfort, in the lamentable conflicts I daily undergo. You know Donna Laura, the unhappy wife of Diego d'Alcantara, twin sister to Donna Clara, and so perfect is their resemblance to each other, that they can scarcely be distinguished. Now much do I fear, that I shall transfer the affection I bear to one sister, into a stronger passion for the other, who you know was forced into a marriage with her superannuated

nuated spouse, a circumstance joined to others, which gives me reason to think I shall in that quarter easily prevail. Should this be the case, and such is the unhappy and ungovernable nature of my constitution, (though I tremble with horror at the thought of such complicated sin) that I fear it will cost the life of Diego, or my own, nay, possibly that of both may pay the forfeiture of my crime; to live longer in my present state, the constant prey of a consuming fire, I will not endure, and if you will not speak comfort to my distracted soul, I am determined to rid myself of a life which is now become a burthen to my sense. In the mean time as an expiation for my involuntary sin, I beg leave to offer this jewel (presenting the case) to enrich our lady of Loretto's shrine, or to be disposed of in any other holy service, as to your wisdom shall seem meet, as a peace offering to the offended church.'

'My master having taken a casual view of the diamond, of which he was a perfect judge, and thrown it carelessly into the table drawer; 'Son,' says he, 'I tremble for your condition, murder, adultery, and suicide! it must not be; right glad am I that you have by your struggles evinced the purity of your will, deficient as you are in strength to combat the frailty of the flesh; but, alas! to err is the inheritance of man.' Here he actually shed tears, in which, with an equal degree of hypocrisy and joy, he was accompanied by Gaspar, the former at having obtained the only jewel he esteemed worth having, the other at the certain prospect

prospect of obtaining one, on which he set a higher price; and they continued their dolorous duet, (though neither of them was deceived by this preposterous grimace) with an equal degree of artifice, till my master resumed his discourse in the following terms—‘ Though evil should be avoided if possible, there are degrees of vice, and it is certainly not only pardonable, but advisable, to admit the inevitable commission of a small crime, for the prevention of a more atrocious sin; but let me once more conjure you to summon to your aid, the efficacy of grace, and engage in fervent prayer, that you may be endowed with fortitude, sufficient to withstand the temptation into which, through the wiles of Satan, you are fallen.’—In this style he continued to harangue Gasper for a quarter of an hour, who knew his man too well to doubt of his amour with Clara, being attended with the same success, he had already experienced with her sister Laura; but finding the religious scruples of the former were the only impediment to his wishes, he had been under the necessity of having recourse to the assistance of the priest, an expence the libidinous and experienced disposition of the latter had saved him; his amour with her having furnished him with the hint, of making her name subservient to the attainment of his desires with Clara, in satisfying the demands of hypocrisy, and affording my master a pretext for promoting his new intrigue, that he might prevent an adulterous crime, in which he had long indulged, and with which he had been long surfeited before.

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‘ They now parted, Gasper to enjoy the success of a negotiation, which had surpassed his hopes, the priest to contemplate the wages of iniquity ; which he found to be of such value, that he would for such another, have been instrumental in the violation of all the virgins in Madrid. In this pleasing occupation he was interrupted by the arrival of Donna Clara herself. It is needless to relate the artful and insidious arguments he used ; few were necessary to induce her to follow her inclinations, and when she found her director not only connived at, but even tolerated it under the specious pretext of committing a small evil to obviate a great one, painting her as about to engage in a state of martyrdom, to the preservation of a frail sister, that would else be plunged in adulterous sin, whose name he industriously concealed, she no longer hesitated ; but with a pretended reluctance suffered herself to be prevailed on, by the fallacious argument of the priest, who obtained a seemingly extorted promise from her, to devote herself to this charitable exploit in her lover’s arms. Gladly would he have anticipated Gasper in the pleasure he was to experience in consequence of his advice ; but his penetration had informed him, that the lady was in fact, a devotee, only in appearances, and whatever deference she might acknowledge for his opinion, where it coincided with her own inclinations, it would be a work of danger, and unsuccessful to make any attempt for supplanting one, who had got possession of her heart,

heart, as she had not that timidity of which she was about to take advantage, and which aided him to undermine the virtue of Donna Terefa; and indeed Clara in the whole process of her ruin was (though she scarce was conscious of it) as great a hypocrite as himself; but such was the effect of her customary application to him, upon all occasions, and such the efficacy of his advice which he always qualified according to the different dispositions of his applicants, that it presently reconciled her to herself, and stifled all internal reproaches, at the reflections which, notwithstanding, would arise, on the infamous sacrifice she was about to make. The event of this affair did not come to my knowledge, as they did not visit my master again, during the short time I was in his possession; but the parties being agreed, it no doubt terminated according to the wishes of Don Gasper, and the general satisfaction of all concerned.

‘ The business of the day being over, his reverence went to the refectory, where he made himself ample amends for the labour and trouble he had undergone; recruiting his spirits in the true epicurean style, regaling with every dainty, natural and forced, that money could procure, till nature sinking under the consequence of gluttony and intoxication, and he could gormandize no more, he retired to rest.

‘ Having slept off the effects of his debauch, his first thoughts on waking were employed in
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devising a plan for his proceedings with his expected penitent, Donna Teresa D'Aguilar. Had it been a common business, he would have made short work of it, and have accused her of heresy to the inquisition, (of which he was a member) but besides the dread of the great power of her opulent family, the father of her lover was also an officer of that holy tribunal, superior in station, and greater in credit than himself; this was therefore an impracticable scheme. After much deliberation he resolved on another, the scene of action, and agency of which, were entirely comprehended in his own person and domain; but this was only in case of being driven to extremities for the accomplishment of his wish.

CHAP. XVII.

The Story of Donna Teresa resumed.—An extraordinary Penance enjoined, and executed with singular address.

‘AT the hour appointed, Donna Teresa summoned him to the confessional. ‘Well, daughter,’ says he, ‘have you endeavoured to conquer that profane attachment, the source of a destructive aversion, to a seclusion from the world, and all its vain allurements, of which Satan hourly avails himself, to inveigle the corrupted soul, of whose empire, when you were here yesterday, you indicated such indubitable marks?’—— ‘Father,’ replied she, ‘I have struggled night and day, and have at length attained to such a frame of mind, that I think, yes, I think, that I can forego all the happiness I expected in this world, even Don Ferdinand himself, for that which will never have an end.’ This was a stroke for which my master was totally unprepared, and was only to be attributed to a little quarrel then subsisting between the lovers, in which she had imbibed an unjust suspicion of Ferdinand’s truth, that afterwards was soon made up.

up. To me his disappointment was evidently visible, and to conceal it from her, as well as to gain time to consider how he should proceed, he fell into a violent fit of coughing.

‘ At length recovering—‘ Are you sure,’ says he, ‘ that no lurking desire, no transient carnal thoughts will ever intrude, to interrupt the continual devotion you must then pursue, or stain the spotless purity of mind you must there preserve : can you, with unremitted perseverance, perform the fasts, the nightly vigils, and other penitential severities enjoined you to endure, in the sequestered recesses of the cloister, where, if the least shadow of a worldly wish pervades your heart, you heap perdition on your abandoned soul ?’ He then proceeded to draw such a picture of the corporal and mental sufferings she would undergo, by becoming a nun, in such exaggerated colours, intermixing his description with such terrible denunciations of divine vengeance, in case of her apostacy, that the terrified object of his threats, unequal to the conflict, was near falling in a fit and recanting, became so averse to a monastic life, that his sophistry would in all probability have failed, to have reconciled her thereunto, an experiment he was by no means inclinable to make. ‘ Since then you cannot answer for yourself,’ resumed he, ‘ a difficulty certainly commendable in itself, I have been thinking what atonement you can make ; and I know of none so apposite, or so acceptable to the holy virgin,
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as the sacrifice of the first fruits of that beauty, which, as I said before, is the fatal cause of your unhappy crime.'

'Such was the extreme innocence and simplicity of Teresa, that as yet she had not the least idea of his drift, or the nature of the sacrifice he required; nor was it till after several conversations, that she comprehended the scope of his design; in the course of which, he gradually unfolded to her perception, that he would personally take possession of her charms, in the name of that Being to whose chastity she had offered such a gross offence; the sensuality he explained away, by a nice discrimination between the commission of an act perpetrated with a voluptuous view, and the expiatory offering to be made by her. Replete as she was with bigotry, and prepossessed with an opinion of her pastor's sanctity, she was startled at this daring and gross violation of honour, chastity, and virtuous fame; clothed as it was in such a holy garb, and qualified with the specious arguments of sacerdotal sophistry, and jesuitical address; of this my master was so sensible, that he determined to call in the assistance of certain terrific contrivances he had fabricated, to intimidate a virtue no eloquence had power to lull asleep, and no rhetorical priestcraft could furnish reasons to subdue. He therefore broke up the conferences with these words, 'But let us not be rash; to-morrow we will seek the virgin in prayer, perhaps she may

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manifest herself to us, and personally declare her gracious will.'

' The next morning at a very early hour he completed the necessary dispositions for the deceptions he intended to practise on the deluded fair. At a convenient distance from his convent was a small chapel, dedicated to our lady of Compostella, which had been many years ago endowed as a chauntry, for the maintenance of a priest, who was at certain stated periods, to pray for the souls of the founders, according to the ancient well known superstition of the times ; an institution which was productive of a vast revenue to the holy see. But the lands attached thereto, having been sequestered by the hand of power, and swallowed up in the changes consequential to the military and civil commotions of the state, it had long been disused for that purpose, and served as a repository, for the trumpery and lumber, used in the miraculous mummary, practised by the priests. This chapel, of which by his office, he had the sole management and key, and in which was an image of the holy virgin, with a closet contiguous thereto, he fixed on as the scene of action, and prepared in a manner hereafter described.

' On the morning of the day which he had destined for the performance of a farce, he little imagined would have so tragical an end, he repaired to the house of his victim's parents, over whom he had the most unlimited sway, and acquainted

quainted them, it was become necessary to inflict a slight corporal penance on her at the holy shrine, before he could absolve her from some errors she had fallen into since her last confession; for which purpose, he would send for her for the greater privacy, to the convent at midnight : with this they unfortunately acquiesced. Accordingly every thing being ready, at the appointed time, she arrived, and was conducted to the chapel, which was hung with black, and otherwise furnished with every thing calculated to inspire horror and dismay. Here they continued for the space of half an hour, when on their earnest intercession, that the virgin would declare her pleasure, loud and repeated claps of thunder were heard, at first distant, but by degrees approaching, till they seemed to be entering the room ; at the same time the veil of the image dropped off, and its head appeared, encircled with a glory of resplendent fire, over which in flaming characters was written, *The virgin demands a sacrifice.* Various parts of the chapel were suddenly illuminated, and the sound of the thunder was altered from that full toned, rumbling noise, which denotes its distance and departure to another quarter, to those sudden less majestic, but more alarming rattling cracks, which threaten the terrified auditors with instant dissolution, concluding with an explosion enough to daunt an infidel of the most hardened mind. No wonder then such a scene with all the resemblance of a supernatural agency, which would have startled a person of ordinary courage, had an instantaneous

effect on a girl naturally timid, aided with the terror of imaginary guilt, heightened by the apprehension of the divine vengeance it had incurred, enforced by the denunciation my master had been pronouncing against her, to mollify her heart.

‘ The terrified lady instinctively clung to him, with all the strength she had, and uttering a loud scream, fainted in his arms, in which condition did this monster in human shape bear her to the foot of the altar, already prepared for the occasion, and there, regardless of her senseless situation, perpetrated an outrage which none but Satan, or his representatives, could have had the heart to perform, and which even I beheld with that kind of momentary shudder, which you particularize by saying, somebody is passing over your graves.

‘ The fire of his brutal appetite being quenched, after-indulging a savage delight, in the contemplation of the ruin he had caused, he began to be terribly alarmed, at perceiving she was still in a state of insensibility, without pulse or motion; having in vain endeavoured to restore her, by the usual methods of administering water, essences, and drops, (all which with a prudent foresight he had provided) he entertained the most dreadful apprehensions for the mortal consequences which might ensue, her spirit seeming to be fled; it was a quarter of an hour before she shewed any signs of life, and when she did, they were of short duration, as she relapsed into fit
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after fit, attended with strong convulsions; he then cursed the fertility of his invention, the effects of which had so far exceeded his intents, and which he had now reason to think would involve him in disgrace and death; but he was suffered upon earth a little longer, and spared at present, that he might publicly expiate his offence, (as will soon be related) and be a more striking example to wretches like himself.

‘ At length nature being exhausted, could exert itself no longer, and she must have sunk under the debilitating conflict she underwent: when her senses returning as her paroxysms subsided, she opened her eyes to the great joy of my master, and stared wildly round, as if conscious of what had been transacted in her helpless state, when the first object presented to her sight, was another inscription over the virgin’s head, in the room of the former—*The virgin is appeased*. The sable hangings being removed, the thunder ceased, and the lights extinguished, when the whole suddenly flashed upon her mind, with instant conviction of the truth, and recollecting her situation, she suffered such a violent burst of grief, that it required the utmost exertion of my master’s skill to prevent her relapsing again into the situation from which she was with such difficulty recalled, to life: at length his sophistry prevailed, and having granted her a plenary absolution, he himself conducted her to her paternal home.

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‘ It is now time to explain to you the contrivances by which my master imposed upon his penitent with such success, which will be done in a very few words. The veil of the image and hangings had been suspended by fine silk strings that run through pulleys, fixed in the roof of the chapel: the image stood on a pedestal in a niche, with its head within an inch of the top, where the pulley was fixed, the strings were conducted along the wall by means of other pulleys, till they reached my master’s chair, when the ends were conveniently placed, so that he could by lengthening or shortening them, raise or lower the veil at pleasure. The luminary part of the business was the effect of phosphorous and other chemical preparations, in which he was a perfect adept; and these transparencies were either disclosed, or hid by his management of sliders, in grooves, governed by strings and pulleys on the same construction by which the veil was elevated or depressed. The two inscriptions over the head of the image, and the glory were also managed by sliders one above another, all of which were concealed by pictures hung before them, which he lowered at pleasure by a similar contrivance. But to prevent all possibility of detection, he never displayed his illuminations till he had sufficiently terrified her with the thunder, which was contrived by a common deception often used by the proprietors of public shews.

‘ Having provided several large pliable sheets of copper and iron, he fixed them in wooden frames

frames in the closet, so that they were confined at top and bottom, and capable of concussion in the middle, where he bored a hole in each; through these he inserted a cord, and securing them with a knot on the further side, he united them to another cord, which passed through a hole in the closet door, and one in the back of his wooden chair, wherein he sat; so that pulling the main cord he gave motion to all the plate at once.

‘ Such as are not acquainted with this device, might easily be deceived by the agitation of a single plate. When the encreasing operation of this machinery had acted on the fears of the lady, who was kneeling before him with her face to the image, and her back to him, he displayed his fireworks, by drawing his sliders, and with a sudden jerk with the cord by which he commanded his thunder, he disengaged the plates from their frames, which fell to the ground with a dreadful clangour, striking against each other, and occasioned the horrible explosion which prepared her mind for his subsequent impositions, the effects of which we have already described.

C H A P. XVIII.

Continued.—He relates the effects of the foregoing adventure, and the dreadful consequences resulting to himself, and all parties concerned therein.

HIS grand point being accomplished, my master found very little difficulty in reconciling his penitent to her situation, and soon prevailed on her to submit to a repetition of her penance, and repeat the sacrifice she had already made.

‘To persons unacquainted with the unbounded authority with which the holy pastors are invested, over the minds of their infatuated flocks, this may appear extraordinary. But the influence of fanatical enthusiasm in those days was indefinite. The first maxim that my master had inculcated in the mind of Teresa, and others who had chosen him for their guide from their infancy, was, that the fathers of the holy mother church can never err: having thus established the doctrine of infallibility, he had proceeded to instruct her, that they often had recourse to ways and means for the accomplishment of their pious purposes, entirely incomprehensible, on account of
their

their intricacy to the rest of mankind, but more particularly the profane.

‘As his cautious dissimulation had hitherto availed to shield his character from detection, it was no wonder he was able to prevail on her to continue a commerce commenced under the sanction of an atonement to the church; a precedent of which we find in the Mahometan code, as that impostor had the address to convince his numerous disciples, that no woman, be her station or condition what it would, was contaminated by his embrace. Nor was my master under the least apprehensions for the natural consequence for this infamous and cruel deed. He knew she was to be married in a week, when it would be her own interest to conceal what had passed, should she repent, or have the audacity to think of revealing what he had urged as her duty to conceal. But vengeance was at hand, the time approached when the veil of hypocrisy was to be torn away, and he was to be unfolded to the world, appear in his proper colours, finally meet the due reward of all his diabolical proceedings, and that by one of those accidents against which no human foresight could provide.

‘A few days before that fixed on for the marriage of Don Ferdinand de Portacarero, and Donna Teresa D’Aguilar, the former by reason of a sudden irruption of the Moors, was ordered to join the army, (in which he held a considerable post) without delay. Having taken a tender and
hasty

hasty leave of his intended bride, (who had more reason than her disappointed nuptials, to be overwhelmed at this unexpected separation) he obeyed the calls of duty and honour with all the cheerfulness he could assume, comforting himself that he should possibly have an opportunity of achieving some exploit, which might render him more worthy of his mistress's love ; whom in the meantime, he wished to retire from Madrid, and reside in the country (whither they were shortly to retire for the summer) till his return. Her father's country seat lying in his road, he had accordingly accompanied them so far, and then proceeded to join an army by whom he was adored for all those military qualities which rendered him famous as a soldier, and to whom he was endeared by the more conciliating virtues of justice, humanity, and honour, which made him valued as a man.

‘It was at the very moment that my master was congratulating himself on the success of his stratagem, and enjoyed in idea, the cruel triumph he had gained, that he heard of these transactions. He received it in the same manner as a criminal, cajoled by an Old Bailey miscreant with the certainty of a pardon, does the warrant for his death. He was not however without hopes that no consequences would ensue, or that Don Ferdinand might return in time to adopt the witness of his impious guilt, venting the rage of apprehensive horror on the Moors, whom he incessantly cursed with the most bitter imprecations
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of vindictive wrath. In the mean time, week after week rolled on, and there was no prospect of an end to the campaign, while the town was filled with the news of Ferdinand's military deeds, who was at length taken prisoner, and it was four months before he was exchanged.

'If the news of these events filled my master with alarm, how was it increased, when Teresa contrived to let him know that she was pregnant. The commission of one sin is so often the occasion of a multitude, that no person when once he steps aside from the paths of rectitude, can with certainty presume to say 'Thus far will I go,' while the succeeding errors are often of a deeper dye than the original, and primary deviation from the rules of right, of which they were the consequent effect; the propriety of this remark was verified in the present case, for the priest now conceived the idea of shifting the burden of his iniquity from himself, to him who from the well known attachment that subsisted between them, could with the greatest probability be accused thereof. To do this, it was necessary to remove the supposititious perpetrator of the crime, for precluding certain detection and disgrace. There was only one method to effect this—'Dead men tell no tales,'—he therefore resolved the lover should be murdered; as to his penitent, he gave himself no thought concerning her, for her lover dead, he made no doubt of her keeping a secret, it would then answer no purpose to reveal, and that she would easily be prevailed on to avow her
having

having given him the last, and fatal proof of her affection, before his departure to the camp.

‘The very day of the arrival of the assassins at the army, who were to have dispatched the lover, Ferdinand (the Moors having been routed) obtained leave to return to Madrid ; and he alighted at the door of the count d’Aguilar, before they had the least intimation of his approach ; where the scene that was exhibited to his view, and the reception he met with, surpassed all his conjectures to comprehend. His mistress was in strong convulsions, the unhappy parents in agonies of alternate grief and rage for her situation, and the resentment at the disgrace which threatened their illustrious house, visible to them in her personal appearance ; while he, instead of being received with that warmth of friendship, which as one so soon to be nearly allied to them, he had reason to expect, was loaded with every opprobrious reproach, which resentment could suggest, terminating in threats of vengeance, due to the enormity of an imagined crime, in the seduction of their only child. Don Ferdinand was a man of the strictest honour, and had a young man aspersed him with half the asperity with which the Count had expressed himself, in all likelihood something fatal would have happened on the spot. But tho’ brave, his courage was tempered with discretion. It was not the flash of momentary fire, but the cool and steady result of honourable worth ; he regarded the Count, the father of the woman whom he loved, at the same

same time that he respected his venerable age ; surprized, confounded, and incensed as he was, he saw some unfortunate calamity had occurred, and that it was then no time for explanation, his assistance being rejected, himself reviled, treated with contempt, and all the endeavours he used by enquiry to develope the extraordinary scene he had been witness to, being answered with a peremptory dismissal from the house. He therefore retired, resolving in his own mind never to return, till summoned to receive an ample satisfaction, with due concessions, for the indignities he had there sustained, which he placed to the account of some inconceivable mistake ; the consciousness of his own integrity assuring him, they were as unmerited from them, as they were unexpected by himself.

‘ It was not long he waited for an explanation. He had arrived at the critical moment, when the parents of Teresa had discovered her situation, which she had with the utmost difficulty concealed till then ; but at last the severity of her disorder, and the grief under which she laboured, rendered it impossible any longer to bear up under her corporal and mental woes ; and she could no longer avoid observation, to do which, she had hitherto recourse to such means, to disguise the alteration in her shape, as threw her into the situation above described, at the very instant Don Ferdinand arrived. The means undertaken by her mother on the instant for her recovery, betrayed the occasion of her complaint ; as they

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knew that no person had access to her but Ferdinand, so as to have an opportunity to accomplish her ruin, (for of my pious master they did not entertain the least suspicion) they naturally concluded he had taken undue advantage of her affection, to overwhelm them in a calamity, which was attended with such excess of grief. It was therefore no wonder they gave him a reception, as inhospitable, and inimical to him, as they supposed his conduct had been injurious to themselves. The best advice was procured, when her violent agitations brought on a miscarriage, attended with symptoms, that in the opinion of the faculty, foretold a certain and a speedy dissolution. Hitherto there had been no intervals, which had permitted an explanation; when she was more composed, and they in the tenderest manner interrogated her on the circumstances of her distress, she was obstinately dumb to every question which was asked.

‘ Having lain two days in a state of seeming insensibility, she had a favourable intermission, and desired to see her parents; after thanking them for all their indulgence and unremitting love, she requested, as the last favour which she should be able to require, or they have an opportunity to grant, that Don Ferdinand might be sent for without delay; when she would before her parents, (her uncle who happened to be there) and her lover, disclose the story of her fall, which as she felt herself declining fast, she wished should be properly attested. Averse as her father was to any interview with him, whom he made no
doubt,

doubt, she intended publicly to reproach, yet finding her relapse into her former silence on his demur, curious to learn the particulars of what he almost feared to hear, and persuaded by his brother, who having observed the whole scene, with an impartial eye, thought the conduct of Ferdinand inconsistent with his guilt, he at length consented; on which the latter himself went and fetched him from Madrid, tho' not without some reluctance on the part of Ferdinand; till the circumstances, and the earnest desire of Teresa, to behold him once again before she died, were related. Desirous, however, to exculpate himself, and anxious for the explanation of what he had seen, when he arrived, (as nothing had transpired) he returned with the uncle to their country house; where Donna Teresa in the presence of her father, mother, uncle, lover, and two notaries, often interrupted with the anguish she sustained, gave a minute relation upon oath, of the whole transaction between my master and herself. Having thus to the astonishment of all her hearers, disburthened her mind of the load which had long oppressed it, she, contrary to the opinion of every one, from that day began to mend in her health, which she recovered so far as to become a member of the family, but was soon seized with silent melancholy; and after retiring into a convent, where, her reason by degrees forsaking her, she lingered for some time, and expired universally lamented, raving mad.—To return to my master.—

‘ Entirely

‘ Entirely ignorant of all that passed, from his suspense he endured the torments of the damned ; from which he was soon relieved by a certainty which shook his soul with apprehension of impending fate. In hourly expectation of the news of Ferdinand’s disease, he heard that every particular had come to light, and his victim safe arrived, beyond the power of his arts. Application having been made to the proper magistrates, he was apprehended and imprisoned, at the very instant he was meditating future mischief, to secure himself by the destruction of the lady, when she should return from the country ; and was actually then employed in mixing up the dose, wherewith he intended to execute his wicked purpose, that the measure of his iniquity might be complete.

‘ The mystery of the supernatural appearances were then explained on searching the chapel, which had perplexed the examination of Teresa’s narrative. Every possible means were exerted by the holy church, to smother the abhorrent flame kindled in the minds of all ranks, degrees and sects, by the report of this affair ; or at least to give it such a perverted construction, as to take off the odium with which the priesthood was universally stigmatised therefor. When all their endeavours failed, they strained every nerve to avert the everlasting scandal which must inevitably follow his execution, and overwhelm the holy office in disgrace.

‘ But

*But the united interest of Portacarero and D'Aguilar carried all before it; his guilt was further aggravated by the capture of the assassins, hired to murder Ferdinand; who being threatened with the rack, after they had made an unsuccessful attempt on the person who succeeded to the quarters of Don Ferdinand, of whose absence they were ignorant, and finding there was no hope of protection from my master, (whose instruments they had long been) confessed all they knew of his enormous life; in the course of which, such scenes of iniquity were opened to the public view, as were of themselves sufficient to bring him to his end, and he was condemned to suffer a death, to which in his inquisitorial capacity he had often been accessory, in bringing the unhappy wretches who were so miserable, on account of their wealth, or opinionative opposition, to become the victims of that accursed court. Every effort to save him having failed, they at length prevailed so far, as to obtain a temporary respite, during which they endeavoured to procure an order from court for a private execution; doubtful of the event, and being too well guarded to strangle him, as they wished to do, in prison, they applied to Rome, and possibly their application might have met with undeserved success, but heaven, whose mercy no doubt was exhausted, and wearied with the repeated insults offered it, could no longer tolerate the existence of such a being on the habitable globe; and tho' for wise ends, (beyond the reach of our shallow perception) it suffers the temporary in-

influence of our species to prevail, will often in your world make striking examples of its justice on the spot ; one of which was now to be exhibited in the person of my master, and for the greater efficacy of the warning it was to convey, in the most public manner, attended with circumstances which bid defiance to the lenity of the legislature, or the palliating secret resources of the church.

‘It has been already related, that Don Ferdinand was infinitely dear to the army, the corps which were particularly under his command, were chiefly composed of Huguenots ; who having fled from persecution, and being harrassed, to avoid further calamities had become Catholics, at least to outward appearance. The mild unbigotted, though zealous fervour which he had always exhibited for his religion, had induced the wisdom of the council to unite them in one body, whereof he was constituted general, in hopes that he would reconcile them to the change, and secure their allegiance to the state. On the ~~report~~ for my master, while they waited for their answer from the Pope, a rumour had spread among the troops that he was pardoned, and their general confined in the prison of the inquisition, and to be delivered over to the secular arm ; on this report they determined to save their beloved commander, and to exact vengeance on his foe. They took their measures accordingly, and forcing their officers along with them, at a concerted signal, a large body appeared in arms, and
marching

marching all night, at day-break entered the capital, from which they were quartered not above eight hours march. Having in vain sought for Ferdinand in the prison, which they broke open, they surrounded that where my master was confined, whom they dragged forth, while others were preparing the faggots and the stake without.

‘It was at this instant the general arrived, and though perhaps secretly pleased at the event, endeavoured to appease them; but they had gone too far to recede. For once they disobeyed and made him take his post; then forming a large circle round the pile, one of them in a rough but honest speech, harrangued the innumerable multitude, which on the news of this extraordinary fight had collected; setting forth the enormity of his deeds, they set fire to the wood, and my master was burnt to death, amongst the acclamations of the soldiers, who enjoyed the excruciating pangs he felt, which were heightened by every means that vengeance could dictate, and a due detestation of his crimes suggested, after which they peaceably retired.

‘The civil punishment, or ecclesiastical excommunication of such a body, who had only anticipated an act of justice, was a work of danger; the government therefore unanimously agreed to let the business drop, especially as the offenders were newly converted to the faith, and the Pope in his answer, which arrived that very day from Rome,

Rome, absolutely refused to interfere in his behalf, while he secretly sent orders to put him privately to death. To finish this catastrophe of the several performers in this tragedy, without future interruption, suffice it to say, that Ferdinand returned to the wars which broke out soon after, where he quickly found the honourable death he sought, and the miserable parents soon sunk down with sorrow to the grave.—Such was the consequence of bigotry and unlimited confidence in a Romish priest.

‘It was on this occasion that I first experienced the pains of transformation, to which the sentence before related subjected me, in the liquification of my metallic form. From the time I had come into the possession of the priest, he had worn me pendant at his neck; and to avoid the trouble of taking me off and on when he chose to expose me on a holiday, or preserve my beauty on ordinary days, he had enclosed me in a little wooden case, so nicely fitted, that without a very accurate inspection, it was not perceivable that any thing was contained therein; appearing only as one of those little wooden crucifixes worn in common by the priests. Unfortunately for me, on the day he was apprehended I was covered by the wooden case, so that there was nothing in my appearance to tempt the rapacious myrmidons of the law, and to excite the avarice of judicial rapine; and as to the very last, he had hopes of pardon, by the interposition of a power, which till then had never been known

to

to exert itself in vain, he had afterwards carefully concealed me from their view. By this means the same fire that dismissed his wicked soul from its corrupted dwelling, having quickly consumed the outside covering, melted the silver composition in which I was confined; this, to my inexpressible torment, running down his body, at length united in a shapeless mass, impregnated with smoke and dirt.

C H A P. XIX.

He falls into the hands of a Pardon-monger.—

The doctrine of indulgencies expounded.—His Master makes a scourge for his own back.—He changes his service again.—A display of Dutch politeness, with a practical assertion of the Female rights.

‘**I**N this condition, when the conflagration ceased, I was picked up barely cool, by one of the surrounding guards that happened to be stationed near the pile, who next morning shewed me to an intimate acquaintance, an alguazil.

The alguazil, who had bought his place from the clippings and filings he had purloined, in the shop of a silversmith with whom he had served his time, having looked at and ascertained my value, like a *true* friend, told him, it was nothing but a piece of petrified clay, and before his face threw me into the kennel; whence on the departure of the soldier, he took me up, wiped me clean, and carried me to a shop, where he received the value in good pistoles of Spain: Here I again endured the pains of fusion, encreased by those

those of malleation, filing, &c. till I was converted into a snuff-box, of singular fashion, peculiar to the country.

‘ I had not lain long in his window, before I attracted the notice of a devotee, who presented me to a reverend rosy son of the church, for certain services, wherein he acted in a double capacity, as participator of her crimes, and the absolver of her sin. My new master was a jolly Dominican, who sacrificed liberally to Venus and Bacchus, to whom he was more constant in his devotion, than to the patron of his order, and the shrine of St. Dominic ; yet he never suffered his pleasure to intrude upon his business, which he prosecuted with the most unremitting assiduity and care, fleecing his penitents without mercy, omitting no opportunity to amass a heap, with which he meditated to decamp, obtain promotion as a dignitary of the church, and *see his friends at Rome.*

‘ For this purpose he engaged in trade, and dealt in commodities, than which not the doctrine of purgatory itself, has proved a more abundant source of profit, to enrich the treasury of the holy see. These were the articles of indulgencies, which originally imported only a dispensation from the papal power, from the observation of certain ceremonies, such as fasting, abstinence from flesh, remission of temporal punishments for crimes, awarded by the church, &c. insomuch that exemptions from the strict observation of
Lent,

Lent, in the articles of meat and eggs, are said to have been publicly sold by auction. But in process of time, as every institution is liable to abuse, the understrappers of the church, imposing on the ignorance of the vulgar, carried on an open and scandalous traffic in indulgencies, which they granted, in the more extensive sense of a permission to sin; for which a stated price was paid, proportioned to the enormity of the crime intended to be committed.

‘ My master having by a most successful trade in this profitable branch (where there was no risk and all clear gains) amassed a considerable treasure, about the time I passed into his hands, thought it high time to pursue his intended plan of elevation, to which he was the rather accelerated, by the envy to which he had subjected himself among the brotherhood, who he was apprehensive, might take advantage of some irregularities he had been guilty of, to expose and plunder him of his laborious service, in the vineyard of the holy see. Having therefore determined to travel as a mendicant, to save charges on the road, he disposed of his property in the most portable manner, and putting me into a little leathern purse, he fixed on a day for his departure. It unfortunately happened, that the Dominican had long had an intrigue with a courtesan in the city, of whom he was so enamoured, that he could not bear the thought of parting with her; he therefore proposed that he should meet him at Rome, and as an inducement, gave her some
4 hints

hints of his possessions and future expectations. The wench artfully made herself mistress of his whole design, and even obtained a sight of treasures, which from that moment she considered as her own ; on his departure she immediately sent for a chevalier d'Industrie, with whom she had long been acquainted, and particularly supported with the Dominican's offerings at her shrine ; to him she related the intended journey of the priest, the road he meant to take, and the wealth he was to carry with him, proposing that he should attack, and ease him of that unnecessary load, and reduce him to the mendicant state in reality, which for convenience he had assumed, after which that they should meet and share the spoil.

‘Tho’ the chevalier had not the least objection to the transfer of the priest’s property, he paused a while to consider the consequence which might ensue from the accomplishment thereof ; robbing a Roman catholic priest, in a country where priests enjoyed such confidence and power, in spiritual and temporal concerns, was a serious matter. He foresaw that if he was taken, the plunder would be considered as the goods of the church, and he should incur the imputation of sacrilege, which he finally might expiate upon the wheel. After some reflection, he thought he had hit upon a method to obtain the prize, and obviate the consequences of the detection, in case of the worst, and to the great joy of the girl (who rejoiced on more accounts than one) he engaged

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in

in the enterprize. Her satisfaction was threefold; first, she hoped to engross the plunder, secondly, to acquire the reward for bringing him to justice, and lastly, she gratified her revenge, for certain ungrateful neglects and concealments he had been guilty of, in their joint concerns, but the sequel will shew she had to deal with one, who did not do things by halves, and that she was reckoning without her host.

“ The day before he set out, the chevalier visited the Dominican, and told him he had occasion for an indulgence for the commission of a crime he *found it necessary* to commit. That he should not have anticipated the pardon, but that hearing he was going to exert his pious labours for the benefit of some distant cure, he was too well convinced of the efficacy of his prayers (which he hoped he would vouchsafe to grant him on the occasion) to let slip the opportunity of applying for them, before he departed from the town. My master (highly gratified by the compliment paid him) answered, he would indulge him, provided it was not a sin of so black a dye, as to preclude the possibility of any successful intercession in his behalf, if they could *agree upon the price*. The chevalier presently satisfied his pretended scruples (which indeed were only made with a view of raising the market) by an assurance “ That it was only an abrupt solicitation for a loan, from one who could well afford to spare, from an enormous heap, accumulated by imposition and avarice, which he was constrained to
borrow,

borrow, to enable him to fulfil a pious vow, and raise a temporary supply, for the pressing necessities of indigent merit, nearly related to the unfeeling party, from whom the loan was to be extorted. That from this small evil, much good would certainly result, as it would be the means of relieving a virtuous object, expiring under the calamities, incident to worldly want." My master, who perfectly understood the palliating colouring, with which he had softened the picture of a robbery, he intended to commit) had now only one condition, which was in his opinion the most material circumstance of all; this was, with respect to the payment of the stipulated price. He therefore told the chevalier, that as the indulgence was anticipated, he recommended to his consideration, what ample peace offering he would make the holy church, for her unbounded love, hoping it would be such, as to evince the due sense he entertained of the favours he was going to receive. He was proceeding in the same strain, when the other stopping him, cut him short in his exhortation, by an acknowledgment so far beyond his expectations, and customary fee (which he begged he would accept, and dispose of in charity as his wisdom should direct, according to the usual cant in such cases) that the priest would, if required, for such another, have given an absolution, for the perpetration of all the crimes, comprehended in the black catalogue of mortal sin.

‘ The pardon having been expedited, with every sanctimonious act necessary to establish its validity, (the expence of which the purchaser did not regard, for a reason which will soon appear) all parties concerned made the necessary dispositions for a march. The nymph (tho’ she might have spared herself the trouble) instead of repairing to the place of rendezvous, resolved to be with the chevalier, before she was expected, to watch his operations, and play her aftergame, in return for his infidelities and partial dealings, in the division of booty obtained in the course of their association, to levy contributions on the public. But he, to an equal degree of knavery, added a superior share of experience in man and woman kind. As my master was travelling thro’ an unfrequented path, which saved him half a league, he was suddenly attacked by a person in disguise, who robbed him of every thing worth taking away, and the snuff-box among the rest; but it happened the resistance the priest made, gave time for some working peasants, who were alarmed at his cries, to come up and seize the rogue; an accident entirely compensated by the disposition of the prince in whose territory the fact was committed.

‘ Far from a bigot, he rejoiced in every opportunity, consistent with his safety, to curb the exorbitant power of the Romish church. The thief being brought instantly before him, so far from endeavouring to palliate his offence, or supplicate the mercy of the prince, with surprizing
audacity,

audacity, boldly avowed the deed ; and throwing off his disguise, presented himself to the confounded pardon-monger, with the indulgence he had granted, for an outrage he little imagined was to be executed on himself, and which, by a kind of retributive justice, had operated on the source from which it was derived. So scandalous a prostitution of the sacred cloth, excited the just indignation of all present, while the ingenuity of my new proprietor, afforded them the highest entertainment. His highness so far from punishing him, did not even consider him in the light of a culprit, but immediately discharged him, turning the whole weight of his resentment on the Dominican, whom he ordered into close confinement, at first resolving to punish him for his abominable profanation in an exemplary manner, but in consideration of the heavy loss he had sustained, after a severe reprimand, dismissed him with disgrace.

‘ In the mean time my master, tho’ acquitted, knew too well the inveterate rancour of a Romish priest, to lose a moment’s time in quitting a country, near one where the arms of the clergy were so long, and such the grasp of their all-gripping hands, that they seldom failed of seizing the object of their rage, to make him an actual example of that poverty they pretended to confess. From the presence of his highness, without the least thought of the damsel, who had been the first cause of his acquisition, and who was expecting him with all the eagerness of hope,
but

but whom he did not chuse to trust (so feeble are the bonds of that union which has not honour for its base) he made the best of his way into another country, whence his departure was precipitated, by an accident which had nearly cost him his life.

‘ Dining at a public ordinary, where were present an elderly lady, her daughter and two Dutchmen, there were placed upon the table three peaches, which were rarities at that season of the year ; one of them was immediately seized by an Hollander, the old lady took another, and my master (who though reduced to live by his wits, was a man of gallantry) helped the young one to the third. The Dutchman who was next to him, and opposite to her, sat some minutes with his eyes fixed upon her plate, exhibiting a most ludicrous picture of fretful disappointed gluttony ; at last starting up and exclaiming, while the water ran out of his mouth, ‘ Dunder and Blichsen, mynheer, vaud de devil be de meaning of daut ?’ he then slapped one hand on the table, and reaching with the other across, stuck his long knife into the young lady’s peach, and brought it to his plate. The gallant sensibility of the chevalier being roused by this uncourteous act, and flagrant infringement of the preference due on such occasions to the female sex, encreased by the circumstances of their being his country women, cried out, ‘ Damn you, you scoundrel, take that,’ at the same time pinning his hand to the table with his fork. His companion

panion at this drew forth his snickasnee and made towards him, when my master, being next the door, got out and turned the key, which luckily being on the outside, he put it in his pocket, locked them in, and ran to his inn, where (not venturing to stay to remove his trunk) he took his treasure, and flew to the water-side, and was fortunate enough to jump into the long-boat of a vessel under sail, which conveyed him to the ship; here he lay concealed till they were fairly out at sea, by means of a handsome gratuity to the sailors; and when he appeared before the captain, and related the story, he was so highly delighted, that he with pleasure transported him to a principality, where he was under no apprehensions from the resentment of the cruel and vindictive Dutch.

C H A P. XX.

He becomes the property of an ancient Person, who is terrified by an alarming nocturnal visit, from an unexpected friend.

‘THE first care of the chevalier on his landing, was to turn his property into cash, for which purpose he applied to a person who not only kept a shop himself, but supplied most of the trade with goods. On observing that my clumsy fashion was by no means calculated to promote a sale in my present form, I was thrown into a vast smelting pot, and incorporated with a huge mass of metal, which was afterwards cut into lumps of different sizes, some of which were worked (to my great torment) into a vast variety of ornamental trinkets, and articles of use.

‘It is here necessary I should remind you, not only of the privileges I have already acquainted you I enjoyed, but particularly a local one, of which I have as yet not had occasion to speak, and another I was deprived of since the sentence
was

was passed, under which I was condemned to pain. Besides the power of chusing in what part of my receptacle my essence should reside, of dividing and uniting it at pleasure, of exercising the intellectual faculty, wherever there was the least atom of my original vehicular machine, notwithstanding adulteration or intermixture; I also was endowed with a certain intuitive quality, by which I was instinctively capable of knowing, to what part of the globe any of the component, tho' minutest particles of my habitation were transported, and I could have excess in my spiritual capacity; but I was absolutely degraded from that influence on the minds of my possessors, which I enjoyed, and exerted before my fall, as in the case of the favourite and prince, before related; the former of whom I inspired with a passion that ended in disgrace, the latter I inclined to undertake a dangerous and unprecedented voyage, to the glory of that infernal majesty I serve.

' The operation of the artist last mentioned, much enlarged my sphere of observation, by the dispersion of such of my component parts as were wrought; and as by fusion I was embodied with the whole mass, I (tho' in a small degree) partook of every drop of metallic liquid in the pot, and consequently of those lumps which were laid by till they were wanted, of which I shall hereafter speak. I shall therefore henceforth in the adventures I may in future relate, be less particular in the process of the transmutations I underwent, as by the immense multiplicity of my parts

you may easily conceive the extension of my progressive perceptions, and when I would wish to relate things which at different places happened at the same period (such were my rights of locality,) I will preserve such an arrangement as will be least liable to confusion, and suspend the narration of one scene by proper information, before I enter on another.

‘ I must also caution you against an impatience you may be liable to, on account of any anachronisms I may be under the necessity of committing in the recital of the subsequent adventures; as my knowledge was regulated by the adventitious appropriation of my various receptacles, by such persons into whose hands I fell; so that a story will not always be introduced with the primary cause of its birth, an instance of which you will have in the course of the following extraordinary detail.

‘ My first egression from the house of the refiner was under the form of a pair of silver compasses, which were purchased by a plain, decent, sedate person, about threescore years of age, who appeared to be rather infirm. From the shop he directly went to an inn, where being told that the coach was just going, he took his seat in a stage, and was conveyed to a town about seven leagues from that which he had left. On his arrival he went to an old castle, at one end of which he was indulged with apartments; a favor he obtained by the interest of his most intimate

mate friend, many years deceased. Soon after having supped, he went to his rest, which was presently disturbed by a very alarming circumstance. At twelve o'clock he was awakened by a violent concussion of his bed, when raising himself up, half petrified with fear, his curtains at the feet suddenly flew open, his chamber was illuminated, and he beheld the figure of his old friend in the dress in which he was usually arrayed, who looking on him for a minute with a steady eye, spoke thus—'Stand collected, be not appalled, and know me for the spirit of thy departed friend; if thou wouldest avoid the miseries of future life and horrors of untimely death, keep this visitation secret from the world, and execute what I command. Go to my imprudent ill advised son, tell him from me, if he still perseveres in the tenor of his present life, and does not alter his pernicious conduct, ruin will overtake, and swift destruction sweep him from the earth.' Having said this he solemnly retreated, keeping his eyes to the last fixed upon my master's face, and with him disappeared the light.

'Bedewed with a cold sweat, my master fell down in an agony of terror, but the former silence and darkness taking place, the anxiety of his mind corresponding with the fatigue of his journey, he presently relapsed into his interrupted sleep. On his waking, which was not till very late the next morning, he had but a confused idea of the transactions of the night, and attributed them entirely to a dream, occasioned by his fatiguing

tiguing expedition on the preceding day ; there was however one circumstance which perplexed him strangely, he was certain that he had according to his usual custom, drawn his curtains close, and he found them wide open ; however, as there was a possibility that he had omitted it, he still rested convinced it was a dream. The next night at the same hour he was again disturbed in the same manner ; the ghost looking displeased, spoke in an angry tone, enjoining his obedience to his orders, repeating his injunctions of secrecy, and disappeared in the same manner as before.

‘ The old gentleman, though not quite so terrified as at first, was greatly shocked, especially as he durst not take advice, or do any act by which the apparition’s visit might be discovered. He began to think it was a serious affair, of which he was convinced, when on returning from his evening walk at dusk, as he passed the skirts of a grove, in a park contiguous to the castle, he saw the figure gliding between the trees, when making a stop as it passed along, it waved its extended arm three times towards the capital, then seemed to sink into the earth.

‘ As soon as my master arrived at his lodgings (which was not without some difficulty) after recruiting his spirits with a glass of brandy, he sat himself down to consider what course he should pursue ; as he was not the object of the ghost’s resentment, but was only desired to carry his warning to another, he determined to acquiesce

quiesce, but there were some difficulties attending the affair. The son of his friend was not very easy of access, and if he got admittance to him, he ran the risk of being punished as an impostor. He now determined to speak to the spirit, therefore summoned all his courage, and was at first in doubt whether to sit up or go to bed; but at length resolved to wait his third nightly appearance, before he went to rest, for as he determined to obey, he thought it would be a mark of more respect.

* Accordingly he took a book, but such were his apprehensions of the approaching scene, that he could not command his attention to a single word, when about half an hour past eleven, his table was suddenly overturned, and the candle falling on the floor went out, his fire was scattered by an explosion in the chimney, and entirely extinguished by a shower of water, which left him in total darkness; groans were heard, the door of his room was opened and clapped to with repeated violence, and he was seized by a hand which dragged him to the bed, and threw him upon it; all which he imputed to the offended spirit of his departed friend, who, when the clock struck twelve, appeared then in complete armour, with the beaver up; in his right hand he held a spear, and on his left arm was fixed his shield, his countenance denounced wrath, his brow contracted, and his eye-balls glared; advancing to the bed as before, he raised his spear, with which he assumed an attitude

tude as if about to transfix my master where he lay, whose tears for his safety, and desire to appease his anger superseding all the terror excited by the sight, at length exclaimed, ' Hold, dear companion of my former days, I will obey, —hold, and do not dismiss my unprepared soul with all my imperfections on my head, but may I speak my difficulties ? ' ' Speak, and be brief,' replied the spirit, his countenance assuming a milder aspect, his uplifted spear reclining, and his whole appearance altered to a friendly guise. My master then objected the difficulty before related, which the ghost obviated, by telling him to whom he should apply to gain admittance to his son, and as a token of his veracity, in case of incredulity, bid him tell him to recollect where he passed the night some twenty years ago, upon the fifth of March. He then having uttered ' Peace be with you'—departed as before.

' I was now for the first time tormented with the solicitude of ungratified curiosity, having a very imperfect idea of this strange affair, for my master was not at all concerned in the deception, and I despaired of accounting for the process of the exploit ; when an accidental event immediately unfolded the whole to my comprehension, at the same time it will clearly explain to you in its relation, in what very small atoms of vehicular case my essence was occasionally compressed.

' You recollect that I got into the possession of the old gentleman by means of silver compasses

passes he had bought ; when he came to deposit them in the case they were bought for, (and had left behind) he found the broad end was too large to go down, so that it would not shut ; to remedy this, he had filed it to a proper size, and the superfluous particles had fallen upon the floor, which having been cleaned in his absence, had not been swept away. In retiring the last day the ghost had trod upon the silver dust, and his feet being damp, it had adhered thereto, by which I was attached to his person, and my perception had of consequence, access to his spiritual and temporal concerns.

* On his pronouncing his last benediction, he retired several paces backward, keeping his eyes still fixed upon the old gentleman, he then turned the slider of a dark lanthorn, which was conveniently fixed to his person ; being thus obscured he stooped, groping till he felt the ends of a ladder, down which he descended, then placing the lanthorn in a corner, he restored the light, and discovered a square vault which had formerly been a dungeon, in which he could just stand upright. He then lifted a door, that hung down on hinges in the vault, and shut upwards. This was of wood, nicely inlaid with marble on the upper side, and was indeed the hearth of the fireplace above. The rabbit edges of the door were lined with leather, so that they would make no noise in shutting, and it fastened with a spring, which my new master having done, he drew a couple of strong iron bolts, and made all secure ;
then

then taking his light we proceeded out of the vault by a narrow arched passage at one corner, of some length, which brought us to a flight of stone steps, which ascending, we came into an open court, (surrounded by the towers of the castle) of most dismal aspect, full of weeds and nettles, the owls hooting, and the bats flitting by us as we passed. Having crossed this, my master took a key out of his waistcoat pocket he wore under his armour, and unlocked a little door which opened on a wooden staircase, at the top of which he let himself in by another key, to a handsome bedchamber behind the bed, which (having fastened the door) he closed so as to hide it, he then pulled off his armour, made up his fire, and went to bed as the clock struck one.

‘ Having slept till eight he arose, and dressing himself, appeared a genteel man of about fifty years of age. The first thing he did was to cut his armour in bits, and burn it piece after piece, it being made of painted paste-board ; he then went to the room door, which opened into a gallery, and rung a bell, when soon after a servant entered with his breakfast, when I quitted his service, for the man taking his shoes to clean, all the little particles of my habitable substance were scraped away.

‘ Before I proceed to unfold the circumstances relating to the ghost’s part in the preceding farce, I will dispatch the object of the deception, that we may not have occasion to return to him again.
And

And first it will be necessary to explain some additional tricks, executed on the last night of the performance.

‘ The gentlemen who had conducted the piece, (for purposes which will fully appear) being aware that he might sit up, had, while he was taking his evening walk, fastened a string to the leg of his table, which stood near the wall) this they brought along the floor up the side of the room, through a hole into that adjoining, with which, taking advantage of his reading, by a sudden pull, they overturned the table ; a person employed for that purpose, on the leads of an adjoining tower, dropped down the chimney one of those chemical preparations, since known by the name of fire-balls, (and advertised throughout Europe to extinguish conflagrations) which was followed by a pail of water ; the rest in the dark was easily performed, the hearth being let down, the ghost came up the ladder, seized and threw him on the bed and retired, where getting off his clothes, he lay till the apparition came again.

‘ On the ghost’s departure, he fell into a slumber which held him till noon : The next day he again embarked in the stage for the capital, where he applied to the person mentioned by the ghost, who (being indeed one of the confederacy) soon procured him an audience of the apparition’s son, then prime minister, a post he enjoyed without controul ; before him he fell upon his knees, and with the most sacred asseverations of the fact, related

lated the whole. The minister, however, (though by no means addicted to superstition) gave no credit to his tale, and insisted on knowing who set him on : On his persisting, with unremitting perseverance, in his assertion, he told him he must excuse being put under a gentle restraint, till he would confess, and was going to give orders for that purpose, when the other stopped him,—“ Hold Sir,” says he, “ There is something yet,—the spirit of your father, my dearly beloved friend, bid me remind you, as a proof of my veracity, how you spent the night some twenty years ago, upon the fifth of March.”

‘ The scene was now instantly changed ; scarce had the old man finished, before the minister underwent the most violent paroxysms of guilt : His hair was visibly animated, his eyes rolled, the colour left his face, his teeth gnashed, his knees knocked together, a universal trepidation pervaded every part, and he fell extended on the floor ; when his head having struck upon the fender, a deep gash was made, and the blood flowed plentifully from the gaping wound ; terrified at the sight, and alarmed for his own safety, the other knew not what to do ; however, as the minister shewed no signs of life, he applied to the bell, which he rung with repeated violence ; when a crowd of servants rushed in, some of whom laid their master on a couch, while others seized the apparent murderer of their lord, who fell into strong convulsions and successive fits, while the house was
presently

presently a scene of universal confusion, perplexity and rage.

‘ At length assistance being fetched, on proper application he recovered so far as to be capable of declaring the innocence of the old man, and ascribing his misfortune to a fit, then telling him he should be glad to see him as soon as he was well enough to transact public business, and ordering him to leave his place of abode with a servant before he went away, he was carried up to bed. The next day the agitated old man was summoned to attend him, when seated by his bed side, the minister desired he would again give him a minute account of all that passed, during which he was visibly affected in an extraordinary manner. He then by various questions, endeavoured to learn how far he was privy to the transactions on the fifth of march, and found to his great satisfaction that he was entirely ignorant of every particular of that fatal night. After exacting the most sacred assurances never, directly or indirectly, to reveal what he had seen and heard, he dismissed him to his home, with a magnificent present to secure his secrecy on this strange event.

‘ I see your impatient curiosity to learn the nature of the secret, which, however natural, and not less than my own before I attained the knowledge of it, I cannot yet gratify without great impropriety, and occasioning confusion. It was a fortunate circumstance for the old gentleman that he was not acquainted with it, for if he was, he
would

would perhaps have been effectually silenced, to prevent his revealing what was only known to four persons in the world, and was the future cause of such unprecedented woe. But you will be told every thing in due course, as the transactions were imparted to myself. I will now developé this mysterious affair.

CHAP. XXI.

Continued and explained—Argal relates how, and for what purpose, his master was engaged to act in a supernatural capacity.

THE pretended ghost (continued the demon) was the second son of a gentleman possessed of a paternal estate of two hundred pounds per annum, and had been bred to the profession of the law; but disgusted with listening to the tedious recitals of clients, who, having purchased the right of perplexing his mind, harrassing his patience, and pestering his peace, with their reiterated incessant tales of imaginary wrongs, owing often to their disregard of equity, or ignorance of law; with other disagreeable circumstances inseparably attached to a practice, often incompatible with the sentiments of an honourable man; his elder brother having drank himself to death, and his father dying soon after, he sold his chambers and books, laid a plan of œconomy, from which he never deviated, agreeable to his circumstances, and at the age of thirty launched forth as an observing spectator in the crowded world.

Not

Not but that he indulged during his juvenility in the pleasures incident to youth, but he wisely considered that they were adapted to every pocket and capacity, and as he never was carried away by the destructive ambitious folly of appearing richer than he was, he regulated even his excesses by such invariable rules, that he never was involved in those difficulties created by extravagance and pride, the bane of happiness and destruction of our peace.

‘ If he ever found himself inclinable to discontent, on account of the narrow sphere of action to which he was confined, he had an admirable way of recovering himself at a very small expence; this was to resort to an hospital or jail, on the maxim that felicity was comparative, whence he always departed with a heart overflowing with gratitude to his God, who had defended him from the miseries he there beheld, the objects of which were sure to taste of his bounty when he came away; and he lived to see many *great men*, who had ridiculed his want of *spirit* to undo himself, peeping through iron bars. As he was a punctual paymaster, always neat and intrinsically genteel in the articles of his apparel, which though plain, were of the best materials; he was, by those who were not acquainted with his affairs, esteemed a man of large property; in consequence of which he was the object of certain female sharks, who from the time they become initiated into the mysteries of their sex, prowl about seeking whom they may devour, to gratify their

their ambition, avarice, vanity and passions, in what is called an honourable way.

• But he had some particularity in his mode of thinking; he used to say, that he did not choose to make himself responsible for the happiness of so many beings as might in such a case be dependent upon him, and look up to him therefor; at least he would defer it till he found a couple, whom after a long acquaintance and a twelve-month's residence with them, he envied for conubial peace. To those who reproached him as leading a life of indolence, a useless burthen upon the public, he said, the man who spent, was of as much utility, as he who earned a penny, and he thought it more beneficial to the community, to exercise no occupation, than by endeavouring to obtain what he did not want, be an obstacle to somebody who was not so well provided as himself.

• In this manner, doing what good he could and no harm, he enjoyed himself where he pleased, without any remarkable occurrence till the period we are speaking of; when one day going home down a principal street, he met a gentleman who regarded him with such particular attention, as induced him to turn round and look after him, when he observed him to go hastily down a lane, which he himself had just past; continuing his walk slowly on, he again saw the gentleman, who had gone by a back way, standing at the end of an alley, as if waiting for his coming, when he
again

again took particular notice of him, then crossed the way, and kept him in sight till he reached his lodgings. Startled a little at this for the present, he was further alarmed next morning when his landlady acquainted him, that a maid at the fruit shop over the way had told her servant, that a person had at night made very particular enquiries after him, asking what coffee-house he used. Surprised at this at length his curiosity was roused, and not being timid he determined to go there at his usual hour; there seating himself near a large glass, which commanded a reflection of the whole room, he had not waited half an hour, before he observed the same gentleman accompanied with another, who had the air of a man of quality, enter the house and sit down in the opposite box. Pretending to be very intent upon the news paper, he remarked their earnest conversation was interrupted, by repeated attention to himself, with expressions of the highest satisfaction, they at intervals referring to a miniature picture the last mentioned gentleman had produced. At length having written a letter with great expedition, they arose to depart, when the button of his great coat catching by a notch in the table, it flew open, and discovered the star and ribband of an order of the first degree. On their departure he applied to the bar for information, but found they were perfect strangers to the house, when the waiter coming in, said, he saw them get into a chariot a few doors off, which was distinguished by the royal arms, whence he naturally concluded the parties were engaged
in

in the conduct of some state affair, but how it could comprehend himself he was at a loss to guess.

‘ A week having elapsed without any further intimation, he began to give over all hopes of satisfying his curiosity. His way home from the coffee house lay through two courts, parted by a narrow unfrequented lane ; at the end of that period, returning to his lodgings, he had got through the first court, when his way across the lane was impeded by a coach with the door open, whereon by the light of a lamp he perceived a coronet, he was going round by the hind wheels, when he was seized by two men, who clapping a hand under each shoulder and his hams, hoisted him into the coach, a third shut the door and mounted the box, the blinds were drawn up and the carriage set off with great rapidity.

‘ Though he was somewhat disconcerted at this abrupt seizure of his person, the high rank of those who executed it, (one of them being the gentleman who had first alarmed him in the street) banished all susceptibility of fear, and seeing it would answer no purpose to be angry, he with a good humour said—“ Gentlemen, if you were inclined to treat me with a ride in this fine coach, I had rather you would have chosen a more seasonable time as I cannot at this hour enjoy the pleasures of the jaunt, nor see the objects which I pass.” “ It gives me the highest satisfaction” replied one of the gentlemen, “ to find you
I do

do not express that resentment we might have expected, from the manner in which we have been under the necessity to secure your person ; and I look on it as a happy omen of your consent to comply with our desires. In the mean time rest assured that so far from doing you any injury, you will be treated with every regard that may tend to obliterate the present disrespect, and will receive an ample compensation for what you will be requested to perform."

' The coach in the mean time, having been driven with great speed near half an hour out of town, stopped for the opening of a pair of vast gates, then entered a court yard, where they alighted at a very magnificent house, and going into a back room up stairs, they sat down to a handsome supper, the gentleman being asked whether he chose any thing particular to eat or drink, and was otherwise treated, with the greatest politeness and respect : On his expressing a concern that the people at his house would be uneasy at his absence, and sit up for him, he was told, all that had been provided for before, one of the gentlemen having himself been to his lodgings, and told them he was engaged with a friend that was ill, and that he might possibly not return for several days : In the mean time any necessaries he wanted would be procured, as he should direct : On his expressing a desire to go to rest, he was shewn into a handsome inner bed-chamber, and the attendant wishing him a good night, when he was in bed, his candle was taken away, and he

was

was left to indulge his meditations by himself. It was in vain he endeavoured to account for these proceedings, but as the manner of his treatment, and the recollection of all the past transactions of his inoffensive life, precluded the idea of danger; after perplexing himself with unsatisfactory conjectures, he fell fast asleep, and never waked till he was called to breakfast at the hour of nine.

‘ After that was over, he was told, that the absence of a particular person obliged them to prolong his suspense a few hours, in the mean time he might divert himself either in the garden or the library: At noon a carriage arrived, from which alighted the knight of the noble order I mentioned before to have appeared at the coffee-house, and they directly then entered into council: “ Sir,” began the knight, “ I am under the greatest concern, at the violence which the circumstances of our scheme have constrained us to offer you, and that my indispensable avocations have left you under doubts, which must be attended with perplexity and alarm, but every compensation will be made you in the power of wealth and friendship to confer.”—To which the other replied,—“ If I was a little discomposed at first, the politeness of your friends soon restored me to my usual serenity; as long as your views are consonant to that honour I never yet infringed, be it as you please,”—“ Far be it from me,” replied the knight, “ to engage in any thing, which would occasion your refusal upon that account;

so far from it, we are endeavouring to promote the happiness of individuals, and the welfare of the state, favour me with your attention without interruption to what I shall relate."

"The ostensible governor and first magistrate to whom the sovereignty of this little free state is delegated, (a near relation to myself) is, as you must know, and all impartial persons must allow, a man of the strictest honour, integrity and truth; temperate, humane, and just; but he is unhappily directed by a minister, whose advice he follows with a blind partiality, that converts all the expected blessings, arising from the good effects of these excellent qualities, into disappointment to the state, and reflecting disgrace upon himself: Of little experience of his own, and too vain to ask advice of those able to direct him, the actual ruler is continually engaging his master in destructive measures: vain, arrogant, and greedy, he treats the repining nobles with contempt, who but ill endure to see an avaricious upstart sell the posts of honour, dignity and wealth, to which they have a claim by services and birth: I fear, much do I fear, (continued the knight with a sigh prophetic of their future wretched fate) that as both are rendered unhappy by the weakness of the one, and the wickedness of the other in their lives, they will quickly come to a miserable death. The citizens already murmur to see their sometimes hard earned subsistence wrung from them, to bribe the assembly of the states, for their concurrence to heap increasing impositions on their devoted heads:

heads : sooner or later (the more fierce the longer it is restrained) rebellion will burst forth, and inflamed by the ill concerted projects of a consort, inimical to this constitution, scatter desolation thro' the land."

" As every effort has in vain been used to divert the minister from his pernicious course by public opposition, and private good advice, we have laid a plan to terrify him into reformation, by a supernatural appearance of his father, the only side on which he seems accessible, for whose memory he, in the midst of his excesses, entertains the highest veneration : It is in the execution of this salutary plot we wish for your assistance. Every thing has been prepared, our operations must be at second hand, for the minister is so circumstanced we cannot work immediately upon him, without entrusting the important secret to so many, that it would in all probability transpire, when we should be subject to his vindictive rage."

" There is an elderly gentleman, the most intimate companion of his father's youthful days ; the same simplicity which makes him a proper object for our design, forbids our trusting him : We shall therefore act on his timidity, to accomplish our ends ; he lives in a castle of which I am governor, his rooms have been properly prepared for the occasion in his absence, which we contrived to effect : It was intended the apparition should appear in armour, that (the beaver being down) his

his face might be concealed from detection, and he was to tell his name : But last week, the secretary of state came to me, and acquainted me that he had found a gentleman in the street, and followed him home, who bore so strong a resemblance to the deceased, that it struck him with astonishment, and affected him with a reverential horror : I need not say, sir, it is yourself. Having myself viewed you at the coffee-house, and compared you with a picture I obtained, we intended to have visited or sent to you by the secretary ; but he heard in the course of his enquiries, that you was so much upon the reserve, particularly with persons in a superior station of life) that it would occasion great delay, and we have not a moment to lose ; for the court is in a few days to remove to the castle, and we shall have but barely time to restore things to their former situation : I wished to discourse with you before we entered upon the plot ; we therefore have chosen this method, for which I once more beg your excuse, and if you will undertake the part of the ghost, you will add an additional obligation if you will not leave us till it is performed, and make your first visit in your supernatural capacity, this very evening at twelve o'clock at night : I am happy to have met with a person, whom I can desire to use his own direction in the conduct of the scene : The armour is there if you think proper to use it ; and should you think it necessary to appear by day, there is an old Sally port by which you may issue and retreat."

‘ The

‘ The gentleman having accepted the employ they allotted to him, after receiving further instructions respecting the token of credibility, was presented with an ample compensation, of which they insisted on his acceptance: In the evening they were conveyed to the castle, where being shewn the necessary preparations, he entered on the service at night, the event of which has been particularly explained before.’

C H A P. XXII.

He relieves the curiosity of his auditors.—The relation of an adventure, which is finally attended with a tragical event.—An amour begun with the usual circumstances of promised joy, concluding with universal disappointment, horror and remorse.

IT is now (continued the demon) that I shall satisfy the curiosity painted in your face, to know the nature of the transaction which gave credit to the story of the pretended ghost. I had some time despaired of learning it myself: The knight had never mentioned it to the performer (who was quite ignorant of it) though I afterwards found that he knew it, (nor was it known to the old Gentleman) and the only person I could receive information from was the minister, on whom the bare hint of it produced such violent emotions: A most dreadful accident put me in a situation for a moment, to participate it, and here you will observe the rapidity of my conception, in the comprehension of my possessors' thoughts and deeds.'

‘In a short time after this ineffectual attempt, (as it proved) for the benefit of prince, minister and state, a man in regimentals came into the shop, where my abodes had been so multiplied; the wildness of whose eyes, and contortion of whose features, plainly evinced the disturbance of his mind: He desired to look at some knives; a box full being shewn him, he took up several, and grasping them one after another, as he extended his arm, he looked up to the sky, frowning and gnashing his teeth with the most menacing grimaces, muttering Collatinus, Virginius, Brutus, Cassius, Raviliac, Tarquin, Appius, Cæsar, Henry, —starting and brandishing his weapon with the most frantic gesticulation, between his exclamatory effusions, insomuch that the boy who served him ran away to his master, (who was at dinner) in the utmost terror and apprehensions for his life.

‘The master alarmed for the safety of his goods (against which he apprehended there was some design) came running into the shop, where somewhat alarmed, he found the customer walking backwards and forwards with great velocity, with a long knife in his hand, stopping at intervals, and seeming lost in thought; at last turning short to the master he said,—‘Art thou the owner of this glorious weapon, doomed to be immortalized in future times, while ages yet unborn shall celebrate the patriot’s fame, and bless the deed till time shall be no more?’ The shopkeeper, to whom all this was Hebrew, answered him

him that it was an excellent bit of stuff, and as well worth the price, which he mentioned, as any in the town. The officer throwing down a piece of gold, and totally forgetting his change, with the utmost precipitation thrusting it into its sheath, made off to the great satisfaction of the feller, who was so glad to get rid of him lest he should cut his throat or his own, that he never called him back : On the handle of the purchase was a small silver plate for a cypher, to which I had access, and accompanied him to his lodgings near the court.'

' The officer was a lieutenant of liberal education, and of a studious turn ; he was particularly fond of history, and chiefly engrossed in the admiration of the heroic actions of the most eminent warriors ; but more peculiarly admired the compendious acts of those who by some singular, desperate and fatal stroke, had delivered their country from the oppression of tyranny, injustice and distress ; such as the extirpation of Tarquin, Appius, Cæsar, &c. by the patriotic hands which shed their blood. But of all these kind of stories he was most struck with that of Cato, who when a boy, being taken by his tutor to the house of Sylla, the dictator, on seeing the heads of persons proscribed by that cruel tyrant brought in, expressed a surprise that no one killed him ; to which his tutor replying—' Who would undertake so daring an exploit ? ' the boy, to his utter astonishment and terror rejoined ' Give me a knife and I will kill him.' Having heated his
imagi-

imagination with the constant perusal of, and meditation on these deeds, he became a perfect Quixote in patriotism, and at length resolved to seize the first opportunity to imitate their acts. Nor did he wait long, the times being favourable to his wish, and afforded him a striking subject whereon to emulate their fame, and shed obnoxious blood.'

'The atrocious proceedings of the minister, had irritated all ranks and degrees of people, who groaned under his oppressive and illegal exactions and political mistakes; the odium of which devolved upon the prince, who blindly followed his advice, and stepped between him and the offended laws, rejecting the aids which were offered him, according to the established statutes, by the assembly of the states, he endeavoured to obtain supplies by ways as injurious to the subject, as indirect and prejudicial to the realm. Persons were forbid to solicit for their right, provided their demands however just, tended to a diminution of the revenue. Strange compositions for forfeitures with disaffected persons were set on foot. Loans and other aids were extorted, &c. &c. persons and property were seized for non compliance therewith. The marine was impaired, trade decayed, the armies were discomfited, the monies misapplied, the state sinking apace into poverty, weakness and contempt, the prince reproached, and the minister abhorred. At length the general assembly exhibited a virulent and bitter expostulation on their wrongs, and every thing
seemed

seemed to threaten internal distraction, misery, and war.'

'It was at this period, my master's frenzy flamed forth with enthusiastic zeal. The morning after I came into his possession, he packed up a trunk and embarking in a stage, was conveyed to a seaport where the minister was; there getting close to him, while he was speaking to a person of very low stature, he reached over his shoulder, stabbed him in the side, and left the weapon sticking in his heart. Though the minister fell dead upon the spot without a word, and my vital abode was momentary, it was sufficient, and I instantaneously received the knowledge which I wished, and will now impart to you.'

'Of the character of the deceased there is no occasion to speak, after what has been related. In the early part of his life, when there was no prospect of his rising to such a height of power, he was as most other young men are, volatile and gay, and what is generally called a promising young man. His mother having taken under her protection a young lady of an honourable but decayed family, whom she really loved, and treated with the greatest tenderness, and not (as the custom too frequently is) to tyrannise over, and insult; he presently marked her as the object of his particular attention, which was no sooner observed by her patroness, but she took him to task, and exacted a promise from him, that he would neither directly or indirectly endeavour to seduce

seduce her, making him bind it with the most solemn assurances; but what are such feeble bonds, when put in competition with the gratification of the heart's desire. Imagining that he saw a partiality in his favour (in which he perhaps was not mistaken, being universally admired as the handsomest man of his time) he continued to address her on every private occasion he could find, and at length persecuted her with such incessant adoration, that she thought it necessary to come to an immediate explanation.'

'Accordingly on his taking some unwarrantable liberties with her, she was determined to throw aside that ridiculous false modesty (as it is called) which often deters a weak woman from asserting herself, till her affections are engaged, and she is overwhelmed in misery, ruin, and disgrace, by the artful encroachments of a scoundrel; and on which he had relied so far as to conceive hopes of subduing her virtue, and add her to the list of those simpletons, who fearing to destroy all hopes of what never existed but in their own imaginations, procrastinate a laudable expostulation on the intentions of a suitor; till in some unguarded hour, they are fatally convinced he is a knave, waiting for a favourable opportunity to complete the destruction of a fool: But he found himself much mistaken in his woman, as she inherited by nature an excellent understanding, greatly improved by that education she had received.'

'In

‘ In one of those *tête à têtes* in which he had exerted every persuasive power of seduction in the book of love, just when he thought he was on the point of success, assuming a look of dignified offended virtue, she turned short upon him, and rising with an air of conscious honour in her mien,—‘ Tell me, sir,’ says she, ‘ to what all this tends ? you repeatedly assure me you love me, and that I am an object fit to be beloved. The first is a secret known only to yourself ; if the second is true (and many say as much) I fear you soon would rob me of my brightest charm ; once more I conjure you tell me in what that happiness consists, which you swear is only in my power to confer ? There is one I do not blush to own, and only one in your’s to bestow, compatible to mine.’ So home and unexpected a question threw the lover into the utmost confusion, he stammered out a few unmeaning common place excuses for not directly making her his wife, usually played off as successful artillery, against a fortress undermined by passion, and assailed by a vanity which is deluded into a belief, that they shall increase a lover’s regard, by the only means which annihilates its existence, and so far from inspiring gratitude, is generally productive of contempt. Having heard him to an end, regarding him with a sarcastic sneer, she gravely returned him thanks for the experience he had afforded her at so little cost, and desired him for his own sake to conceal what had passed, hoping it was his first essay, then advising him not to venture on another till he was capable of making a better figure, and
laughing

laughing heartily at the miserable light in which he now appeared, with a low curtsey departed.'

'Encouraged by her pleasantry, which left open a door for reconciliation, he still took every opportunity of being in her company, calling himself her scholar, and then went on in half serious and half in jest, till presuming on her secrecy, he determined to make an attempt upon her honour, trusting to that love, he knew by means of his sister, she entertained for him, for pardoning what could not be recalled. For this purpose, he took the advantage of his mother and mistress's absence at dinner, while the servants were at their's below, to move back the box-staple of the door where the latter slept, so that the bolt of the lock would not prevent its opening from without, though the key was turned within. After this, he went to spend the evening at a tavern, where he imbibed a sufficient quantity of artificial courage, to enable him to carry his schemes into execution, and stifle every sentiment of honour and remorse: At a late hour he returned thoroughly pot-valiant, and went to bed, where he over-slept himself till almost day break; then all the house being buried in a profound silence, he repaired to the scene of action, and having reason to think his mistress was asleep, took advantage thereof, to gain possession of every bliss he wished in her power to bestow; when alarmed by a noise over head, he immediately sprung from the bed, and retreated to his own chamber, where he heard the maid servant go softly

softly down, and return with some company she let in, and was conducting up stairs in a secret manner without their shoes.'

'As he conjectured she had entered into a confederacy to rob the house, he snatched up his pistols, and issuing forth, beheld the supposed thieves were only a couple of chimney sweepers, who that they might not disturb the family by a knocking at the door, had according to previous agreement, notified their arrival by a handful of small pebbles, thrown up at the garret window, where she slept: He then (cursing them for their unseasonable interruption) resumed his bed, when the intruders having soon dispatched their business, all being silent, and it still wanting three hours of the usual time for the servants rising, he returned to the charge; there instead of being admitted to his mistress's arms as he expected, he was peremptorily ordered to be gone in a whisper through the with-held curtain: On a promise to be indulged at some future more convenient time, and a threat if he persevered to alarm the house, he acquiesced, but as a token of forgiveness, for what he had done, insisted on a reconciliatory parting kiss; for which purpose, suddenly throwing aside the curtain, the light which shone through the round holes in the window shutters, discovered to his distracted sight, his weeping mother's face, when transfixed with horror, he fell across the bed.'

'As soon as he was sufficiently recovered, to attend to her expostulation,—'It is to no purpose,'

pose,' says she, 'to risk a discovery by useless lamentations, for a misfortune which neither of us could foresee, of which we are intentionally innocent, and which cannot be recalled: Behold the consequences of your breach of promise to me, your intended violation of a helpless orphan, and the indulgence of passions, which I have often foretold you, would one day plunge you in a scene of guilty woe, though I little thought to have suffered by your vice, and be involved in it myself.'

'Here she was obliged to pause, the violence of grief impeding her speech, and both were absorbed in silent grief, resuming,—'I hope, most fervently do I hope, that you, my son, will take warning from this night, and let your future conduct be reformed by what is past, reflecting that when once the course of sin is begun, it is not in mortal prescience to pronounce the end.'—She then explained to him the accident, by which they had been betrayed into this unpremeditated crime: It seems the young lady had staid where she dined, to be present at a dance, which was to be performed at night, and as it was some distance from home, was invited to sleep at the house, and her patroness returned without her, not chusing to accept the invitation of her friend: In the evening a vast quantity of soot having fallen down her chimney, the sweeps were ordered to come early next day, and that she might not be disturbed by them in the morning, she took the opportunity of her protegee's absence, to sleep in
her

her room; of all this her son was ignorant, as he did not come home till after the family was retired to rest, who on such occasions let himself in with his own key, a lamp being left in his chamber to light him to bed. The mother and son now parted, after the latter had promised to be more circumspect in his conduct, and they had agreed to keep secret the unhappy events of the night, which they imagined could never be known to any person else, but herein they deceived themselves.'

'While they were at breakfast the young lady unexpectedly returned, and went directly to her room, to make an alteration in her dress, when to her great surprize she found her bed had been occupied, and turning down the clothes to smooth them, that she might lay the things which she was going to pull off, more commodiously, she found a little black silk thumb stall, which she herself the day before had sewn upon her lover's thumb to keep it from the air, as it was cut, and immediately knew her own work; she was going down with it in her hand, to know how he came to invade her bed, and laugh at the indulgence of his lover-like whim, a joke which must have covered the parties concerned, with confusion and dismay, when luckily she met the chamber-maid, who answered her question concerning her bed being occupied, that her mistress had slept in it, on account of her own chimney having been swept: She was now strangely confused, she was positive as to the
identity

identity of the thumb stall, and the situation in which she found it, gave rise to strange ideas; in ruminating on which she entered the parlour where they were, and observed she was glad she happened to sleep out, as it gave her friend an opportunity to have the sweeps, without being disturbed, who saying it was very well timed, turned the discourse by asking her concerning the dance. Though the young lady had no suspicion of the truth, she instinctively turned her eyes towards her lover's face, whose countenance in spite of all his caution, was suffused with blushes of the deepest dye, while he betrayed evident signs of confusion, horror and remorse.'

'If she now began to have an imperfect idea of the fact, she was confirmed in her suspicions of the truth, when on locking her door at night, and trying if it was fastened, (according to her usual custom) she found it was not safe; upon which she piled up three chairs one on another against the door, the fall of which might awaken her, should it be opened in the night, and keeping in her light, she went to bed, where she slept unmolested, the young gentleman being too much affected with the transactions of the preceding night, to molest her with any further attempt.'

'In the morning she was in a great dilemma, her door could not be fastened, and should he come home in liquor, she trembled for the consequence: She could not make any mention of her lock,

lock, without bringing on an explanation she wished to avoid, as she determined never to give the least hint of her knowledge of this terrible affair; but on examination finding how it had been managed, she restored the staple to its former situation: Nothing remains but to inform you, that she soon afterwards married the knight, who has been mentioned as the principal conductor in the adventure of the ghost, to whom alone, on his difficulty in obtaining a token of credibility for his agent, she imparted the event.

'This is the true detail of the story, of which (though the subject of various conjectures) the particulars have never yet transpired: But you must not imagine, that the evil stops here; heaven, to give a striking example of the extensive, and protractive operations of sin, ordained it should be productive of further evils, which shall be related in their proper place.'

C H A P. XXIII.

He is resident in a habitation of extraordinary fashion.—Pride meets with a dangerous fall.—

By a very singular adventure, he becomes attached to the person of a quad-uped, by whose assistance, he takes a flight through the air, without the assistance of a balloon.

SOME time previous to the late recited catastrophe of the minister, by the hand of the enthusiast, a little, lively, chattering, cunning looking man, equipped en cavalier, coming to the refiners, desired to speak with him alone; on their retiring into a back parlour, he pulled out of his pocket the model of a horse-shoe in wax, and desired to know if he could be furnished in four days, with five or six score made of silver, exactly of that pattern and size.—‘Horse-shoes of silver,’ said my master, ‘Somewhat extraordinary indeed, what will the extravagance of this age come to? why now?’—‘Sir,’ says the customer, ‘I have not time to moralize, if you will execute the order, you will be paid when they are taken away, or if you will give me a receipt, here

here are ten pieces on account, I should also wish you to be silent on the subject.' 'Why,' replied the other, 'I see you understand business; but hold, in four days, to-morrow you know is Sunday, it is impossible.'—'I am sorry for it,' replied the little man, seeming to depart, 'I should not so much mind it myself,' said the other, 'but you must know I am a preacher at the tabernacle, and if the brethren—'

'Damn the tabernacle and the brethren too,' exclaimed a voice on the staircase, while the mistress of the house, a fine lusty red faced dame, bounced into the room. 'I am astonished Mr. Spooner, how you can put these varment in composition with your family, God forgive me, I have no patience, excuse me, sir, pray be seated; mind your family, that's the first duty, is it not, sir? Did you not lose a fine job because you would finish work for one of the brethren as you call em? Did not I catch him in bed with the maid? They're no better than other people, are they, sir? What good do they do you? When we had no business it was well enough, but now you are the greatest man in the trade, to run after such rubbish; and there, sir, he goes and gets up into the pulpit to give his pious profusions, divine breathings, and out pourings of the spirit, and hackles and stammers and snuffles, I'm sure I'd spare my breath to cool my porridge. As I hope to be saved, sir, we have two hundred and seventy-three pounds, nine shillings and three-pence on our books, of which I don't sup-

pose

pose we shall ever get a farthing, all due from these cursed people: Mind your family that's the first duty, isn't it, Sir,' 'To be sure, madam,' replied the gentleman, taking out of a well filled purse ten pieces, 'It is an indisputable one, well, sir, I hope you will comply, especially as your good lady seems willing.'

'The earnest being accepted and the receipt given, the customer departed;—'There,' resumed she, "is not this better than making silver trowels that will never be paid for, for a rascal that goes about canting in the evening, after having employed his morning, in catching his dinner of fish, out of other people's property! Ten pieces in hand, silver horse-shoes, why he must be wonderful rich, who can it be? Such a customer would be worth an annuity, if he shoes his horses with silver.'

'On the day appointed, the gentleman returned, and depositing his purchase in a green velvet bag, was driven in a hackney coach to an elegant house, in one of the handsomest squares in the town, where he seemed to belong to the family; when being told my lord was not come forth yet, he sat down in an anti-chamber, where we attended to the following soliloquy:—'Embassies, aye, an ambassador, the useless unwelcome lumber of a foreign court; useless while there, and forgotten when they are gone: Possibly indeed it may be mentioned, such an embassy was sent, but the name of the ambassador soon buried in obli-

oblivion, if ever known at all: No,—I would have something so remarkable, so unprecedented, as to engage the attention of the present age, and the admiration of that which is to come; and there that fool, that Dolt Holster promised to be here at eleven, (and it is now a quarter past) with a plan for the procession, in which he would introduce something to answer the purpose.'

'Here his lordship rung his bell when Mr. Holster (who I found was a sort of equerry and humble companion) went in, 'Well, sir,' said my lord, 'What have thy cogitations produced from thy thick scull? hast thou thought of any thing to add to the procession; what the devil hast thou got there?'—'Something,' replied Holster, which I hope will signalize your lordship's procession, above all processions which ever yet appeared. There, my lord (untying the bag, and pouring the shoes upon the carpet, with a self applauding grin of expected approbation) there, so singular a device, as cannot fail to transmit your lordship's name to posterity, in the annals of historic fame,' till time shall be no more.'—'My dear friend,' replied his lordship, "I am eternally obliged to you, but explain.'

'Please your lordship,' cried the other 'When you make your public entry, these shoes shall be tacked slightly on; when you come opposite to any of the balconies, where the nobility and beauties are seated, you will make your horse prance; he will then cast the shoes, and the mob will

will scramble for them; your groom following, will then tack on four new ones; depend upon it, the name of a person who exhibits so singular an act of munificence will be recorded, as long as the nation he represents, shall live in the memory of man'—'Admirable, charming,' replied the patron,—'Now, my lord,' resumed he, 'As your lordship intends to take over Bajazet, and my nephew Joe, I humbly advise, they should be exercised a little in this manœuvre, and in the mean time that the secret should be confined to your lordship, Joe and myself; as to the expence though old Spanacre (as your lordship calls him) may grumble,'—

'Damn the expence,' cries my lord, 'don't the nation pay for the honour of the prince's representation? but Holster, you are wrong, there's an old friend of mine besides you and Joe, to whom I have been under obligations for some years, who may be let into the secret, can't avoid it, but he won't tell tales, never blabs.' 'Who is that?' demanded Holster, at the same time looking a little black, 'I think it had better be concealed, the surprize will be so captivating,'—'What, you can't conceive, hay what a Goth, why you Hottentot, don't you think Bajazet must be trusted?'—'Hah! hah! hah! Oh! my lord,' said Holster, 'You are so droll, who could have thought of him? Yes, yes, we must certainly trust Mr. Bajazet; don't your lordship think it will be a most striking piece of magnificence?' 'To be sure,' said his lordship, 'especially if
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these messengers from Bajazet should encounter the pates of the surrounding spectators of our grand design.' 'Oh! my lord, spare me, spare me, have mercy on me,' cried Holster, 'there's no standing this, hah! hah! hah! oh! dear, oh! dear, consider my weak frame; flash upon flash, to convulse me every moment; indeed the brilliancy of your lordship's wit is too resplendent for the susceptibility of your humble servant, hah! hah! hah! and if a skull was to be fractured, some fat bourgeois of city consequence, and he was to expire from the blow, tho' it would be a pity'—'Not at all,' interrupted my lord, 'if the city was burnt to ashes by the illuminations, so that my arrival was commemorated by the conflagration, what a glorious circumstance it would be. But here, take these few pieces for your invention, I dare say it is more than ever your whole family got by their brains before, and go prepare the horse, we'll take a lesson directly, I'll be with you presently.' 'I most humbly thank your lordship,' replied Holster, with a profound bow; and taking up his bag, immediately went down to the stable to his nephew, with whom the equerry appeared in *puris naturalibus*.

'Here a very different dialogue passed from what I related before.—'Jee,' says he, 'I think ever since I introduced you to the stables of this vain right honourable fool, I have, while I made up my own faggot, not neglected yours; indeed I am so sick of him, that if it had not been on
your

your account, I should have been off last year, as I have done all my business, and wish to retire on my gains. It is lucky for you I staid till now, as here is an opportunity to put two hundred pounds or more into your pocket, part of the value of these new thick silver horseshoes, that are intended to be cast among the mob, at the public entry; but if you observe my instructions, three fourths of them will be cast into your own trunk, whence they may be transferred to the silver-smiths, and exchanged for cash. When you prepare Bajazet, fasten the fore shoes tight, so that they will last the whole procession, by which means all those supposed to be cast thence will be your own, which will be one half; as to the rest, I think a dozen pair will be enough for the populace, and make as much talk as a hundred. But here he comes, whip off his shoes, and bring out the horse.'

'His lordship now made his appearance, and Bajazet being properly shod, he mounted in a piece of ground behind the house, at the end of which was the back front of a row of houses, parted only by a narrow road. The shoes being cast and replaced several times to his great satisfaction, and undoubted assurance of diplomatic fame, at last, whether he was too frequent and liberal in his application of the spur, or Bajazet (the 'Turkish emperor of an equine state) was disgusted with the repeated strokes of the hammer at his heels, once in five minutes, instead of as many weeks, he kicked so high, and with such

force, that he threw the ambaffador over his head, and one of his hind shoes, covered with dirt, into the lane, which was picked up by an old woman, and nailed againft her door as a prefervative againft witchcraft; the other flew with great velocity through the window of a one pair of ftairs room, and fell at the feet of a vaft fat man, who appeared to be very aged, and a dignified member of the church, wrapped in a profound reverie.’

• From the time I mentioned my having been attached to the perfon of the horfe, I have perceived your wifhes for information, how far the animal creation partakes of that rational faculty, which gives you fuch an advantage over them, fo as to make their fuperior corporal powers fubfervient to your occafions; but this is a fubject in which we are almoft as much in the dark as you. My intelligence on this head will be very confined; I fhall, however, afford you all the conjectural fatisfaction I can; but not here, as I fhall defer it till I come into a fituation where the faint glimmerings I received while nailed to the hoofs of Bajazet, were a little enlightened, by my intimate and more durable acquaintance with an animal of far greater fagacity than the horfe. That Being, whole all fupporting power upholds the vaft and incomprehenfible chain with which he has concatenated innumerable worlds to worlds, has wifely concealed from the creatures of his hand, what could not conduce either to their convenience or happinefs to know; while
they

they, stimulated by a restless and vain curiosity to learn what surpasses their comprehension to conceive, will still plunge on in everlasting darkness, to penetrate the inscrutable recesses of eternal fate.—But to return.'

'My new master was an apostate archbishop of a Romish see; he meditated a second apostasy in consequence of certain ecclesiastical temptations, held forth by that church, too powerful for his weakness to withstand, tho' he had written against the faith, to which he meant to return, and had been received with open arms, and rewarded with considerable preferments by government, at the instance of the clergy, who gladly embraced every opportunity to secure a convert, whose high dignity did such honour to them, from an abjuration of the errors of Rome, and the public profession of the Protestant enlightened faith.'

'Startled by this extraordinary intrusion, the prelate made towards the window with all the haste his infirmities would permit; but he was so slow in his movement, that there was not the least appearance of any thing which could lead him to account for the strange interruption his cogitations had undergone, with which he was too much engrossed, and of which the subject was too important to suffer any thing else to engage him long; he therefore, as soon as he was recovered from his surprise, at once resumed his meditations and his easy chair with these words

—'A hat,

—‘A hat, aye a hat! but have I not preached and written against them? have not I been rewarded with benefices? but then a hat—to be a cardinal, a prince, one of the holy conclave, to give my vote in the election of a pope—nay, perhaps—at least there is a possibility of being pope myself. Sixtus was only a hog boy, who knows what may happen?’ He then fell into a silent musing, from which he was roused by a servant who announced his excellency; when the ambassador of a foreign Catholic court entered the room, my master received him with the utmost demonstration of joy his unweildy corpulence was capable to express. ‘I heartily wish you joy, my lord cardinal elect,’ began the visitor, ‘every thing is settled, I have received advice from Rome, assuring me that your return to the bosom of our holy mother church, will be instantly rewarded with the vacant hat.’ ‘Have you,’ demanded the archbishop, ‘properly explained to the conclave, that my apostasy was more the result of resentment for neglect, than any doubts, or even disrespect I entertained for our most sacred and only faith, by which the sinner can be saved; and that I have already composed a learned and elaborate treatise, wherein I utterly confute the arguments I made use of in the heat of passion, in favour of those damnable heresies I with the utmost detestation will solemnly abjure?’ ‘I have done every thing you could wish,’ replied the ambassador, ‘and made them acknowledge the neglect they have been guilty of, in so long delaying to give you that pre-eminence you will
now

now so soon enjoy. But pray what is that, a silver horse-shoe, in your hand ?' My master then related the manner in which it had flown into his room; to which the ambassador answered, after a pause of consideration, 'I congratulate you, my good lord cardinal, let us hail the happy omen; perceive you not in this double type, your future aggrandisement and wealth? this shoe, no doubt miraculously laid at your feet by the appointment of St. Francis, whose votary you are, to strengthen you in the resumption of your holy vows, is a double emblem, a twofold earnest of the riches you will possess, and the expedition by which you will attain them. The fashion of it denotes emigration; the materials whereof it is made, (the purest silver) betokens the large sums of money, which will result from the journey you are about to take. Adieu, my lord, remember me in your prayers, and let me flatter myself, that while you live I may always reckon on a friend at Rome.' Here they parted with mutual embraces, his excellency to write the necessary letter preparatory to his friend's receiving the reward of his great merit, in the first Catholic country at which he should arrive; my master to direct his servant in packing up his baggage without delay, that he might lose no time in reaching the land of promise, and taking possession of the honours which awaited his approach.'

'Having some relations at Lisbon whom he wished to see, he never halted till he reached
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that city, where, though it was late in the evening, he directly notified his arrival to the metropolitan, before he went to rest. The fatigue he had undergone, which nothing but the alternate vicissitudes of hopes and doubts that agitated his mind, could have enabled him to sustain) soon threw him into a deep sleep, where the representation of that visionary elevation, which had so often engrossed his waking thoughts, presented to him in a dream, the vatican in all its awful pomp, and he fancied himself surrounded by his brother cardinals, conducted in full consistory to St. Peter's chair; when he was awakened from this enchanting vision by a smart rap at the door, at the midnight hour; admittance was demanded in the name of the holy office, when two familiars (spies) entered, and without any ceremony seized his eminence, thrust him into a hackney coach, and carried him away to a dungeon of the inquisition, where locking him up, they left him to reflect on the consequences of his folly, credulity and pride.'

'In a few weeks he was dispatched to Rome, where, after a severe confinement of three years, he was condemned, notwithstanding his second abjuration and recantation, (in which he renounced the Protestant religion) as a lapsed heretic, to be burnt at the stake, a miserable death, from which he was fortunately spared by the interposition of nature, which snatched him from impending fate, and saved him from the exhibition of a public spectacle, and a lamentable instance

stance of the imbecility of the human mind.—An old man on the brink of the grave, a dupe to that very artifice, in which he had been educated himself, falling a victim to the undeviating, unremitted, cruel practices, of his vindictive and relentless sect, in the pursuit of worldly pomp, to which the least reflection would have convinced him, he never could attain, having been guilty of an unpardonable offence, aggravated by the very high station he enjoyed when he apostatized against a tribunal, which had never yet afforded an instance of pardon, for even a dubious conviction of imaginary crimes against a power founded on enthusiasm, strengthened by superstition, and established by hypocrisy, tyranny and blood; a power which he well knew carried its resentments beyond the grave; of which he (though insensible of it himself) exhibited an example to those he left behind; for his dead body was publicly committed to the flames, and his ashes scattered to the winds of heaven.’

‘These circumstances came to my knowledge afterwards in the course of my circulation; for I did not accompany the prelate any further than Lisbon, becoming the property of the familiar who apprehended him, and secreted me for his own particular emolument. From him I passed to the mint, whence I issued forth in Portuguese money. Soon after I fell into the hands of some foreigners, who, among other spectacles went to see the principal convent in the town; in the parlour I was given to an elderly nun, in ex-

change for some of those trinkets, with which the sisterhood are permitted to exercise their ingenuity, and derive a profitable traffic at the grate; by her I was that very day paid to a young lady, whose attention seemed to be occupied on a very different subject, than what is generally thought to employ, in contemplation, the inhabitants of those gloomy cells.'

CHAP. XXIV.

Agal becomes an inmate of a Nunnery.—A singular escape to a lover, through the medium of an element, unpropitious to the flame of love.

MY new mistress's name was Lamentina, (an appellation well adapted to the unhappy circumstances of her birth, her unfortunate nuptials, and the miserable catastrophe of her death) she was a native of the country whence I came with the archbishop, but to whom she was indebted for her birth, she could not ascertain; she had been brought up at a village many leagues distant from the metropolis, till she was five years old, by an elderly French refugee, being visited once a year by a lady who paid well for her maintenance. At that age she was removed to a house two leagues from the capital, which appeared to be a boarding school for young ladies, but was in fact a private seminary, for educating females in the Roman Catholic religion. Not daring, however, to avow the less ostensible department of the institution Protestants were never refused.

refused, many of whom resided in the house, to enjoy the benefit of the extraordinary care taken to complete the scholar in every accomplishment female excellence required.'

' In the mean time, the work of conversion was not neglected ; such of the Catholic scholars, whose capacity seemed competent to the blessed task, were instructed to insinuate themselves into the affections of their heretic companions, and turn them into the right way. In this pious undertaking, my mistress at first outstripped them all, insomuch that the governess of the society made a point of conscience with her patroness to let her stay with her beyond the time she intended ; that she might labour in the vineyard of salvation, and win the wandering soul a proselyte to the mother church. But it so happened, that in the course of her proceedings in this laudable undertaking, she met with an opponent, who combatted her arguments with such incontrovertible strength of reasoning, that if she did not make her an absolute convert to the truth, she much impaired her zeal for that cause in which she had engaged ; giving such an account of the conventual life (for which she was destined) as filled her with invincible abhorrence and disgust. At the same time the government, which though it had not ever openly countenanced these seminaries, had connived at their establishment, underwent some revolutions which made it unsafe any longer to tolerate their subsistence unobserved.'

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‘ These circumstances conspiring with the original designs of my mistress’s patroness, concerning her ultimate destination ; (who was desirous, for reasons which will appear, to remove her at a distance from herself) induced her to send her to Lisbon, under pretence of finishing her education, but in fact to hide her under the concealment of the veil ; to which, besides the obstacles of the aversion she had imbibed, from the conversation of a refractory scholar, at the before mentioned seminary, and the books she had by her been privately prevailed on to peruse, there was one which appeared in the more formidable shape of a lover ; who, when accompanying his friend in his visits to his sister at the same convent, (the most intimate friend and constant companion of my mistress) had found means to supersede every other consideration in her tender heart. This young gentleman was her countryman, he was brought up under the protection of a lady, whom he looked upon as his aunt, and when he first saw my mistress, was finishing his education by the tour of Europe. Though the superior was enjoined to keep a strict eye over her, and use every practicable means to reconcile her to the veil, all severity was prohibited on that account, as she had given repeated proofs of a temper impenetrable to every effort of constraint.’

‘ It was with the utmost difficulty my mistress could form a plan of correspondence with her lover, for they were never suffered to go to the grate unaccompanied by a severe old nun, who was
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the only person the lady abbess could rely on, to counteract the stratagems of love. After much consultation, the two sisters fell upon a method to give my mistress a more satisfactory intercourse with her lover than what had hitherto been carried on by the language of the eyes ; preparatory to which they invited the she-argus to a repast, where they contrived to administer a dose, which secured the sister in her room for several days ; of this they made such good use (as there was no time for parading with a passion, of which, though they had never spoke to each other before, there was on both sides a sufficient proof) that they presently came to an explanation, and my mistress's ingenuity (though to save appearances it was pretendedly suggested by her friend) supplied the means of future correspondence, in spite of the old sister's vigilance and care. At their last interview, the lover furnished her with a bow and arrows, and a quantity of twine, sufficient to be thrown over the high stone wall, which terminated the garden of the convent, and to be drawn up and down on each side from top to bottom, without either party losing the end.'

' My mistress, who was indulged with full liberty of the garden at all times, took a proper opportunity to fasten the twine to an arrow, and shot it over the wall. This was received by the lover, who drawing it, till the middle of the twine rested on the top of the wall, he hid the superfluity in the nettles, which grew in great quantity

quantity on the ground on both sides, and the whole wall next to the garden was thickly covered with ivy : By means of this conveyance, they for some time carried on their correspondence, in an unfrequented part of the garden, drawing their letters up and down, with the greatest facility, till at length, burning with mutual ardour to give each other the more substantial proof of reciprocal love, (my mistress's scruples being all satisfied by his reiterated promises under his hand, to marry her directly) they began to concert measures for her escape ; which at first they thought of effecting by the same road their correspondence had pursued, by means of a rope and basket, which being drawn over the wall by my mistress, she was to be pulled up by her lover, and then she was to let herself down on the other side, by a rope fastened thereto by a strong iron hook, which was to have been conveyed to her in the basket, in which she was to ascend.'

' But the height of the wall terrified her from this attempt, and they agreed upon another less dangerous expedient, which was practised with success. In that side of the garden, which was hid from the house by its oblique direction, was a canal of running water, supplied by a spring which rose therein, and emptied itself under an arch, (of which the wall before-mentioned made a part) into a large pond, whence it was carried by drains cut for the purpose through the adjoining meadows, and finally discharged itself into the river, at a small distance from the town ; but

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as the water did not reach to the top of the stone arch by three feet, a strong iron grate was fixed on the side next the convent, six feet below the surface, the canal being in that place thirty feet deep. The day before the intended elopement, my mistress's lover procured a complete suit of boy's clothes, which he at night hid in the nettles, and she received over the wall, a close nankeen dress and cap, prepared for the occasion.'

'When she was ten years old she was ordered the use of a pleasure bath, for a weakness in her limbs, and a large pond was walled in at the expense of her patroness, for the purpose. Custom had rendered the water so familiar to her, that she continued the exercise after she was well, for the pleasure of the bath; being naturally alert, she took such delight in it, that she accidentally (as it may be said) had learnt to swim and dive; an art of which she now availed herself, to elude approaching bondage.'

Having packed up what she wished to take with her, as soon as it was dark she went into the garden, and sending her bundle over the wall, stripped with the utmost expedition, put on her water dress, threw her monastic habit into a deep well, and jumping into the canal, dexterously diving under the grate, swam through the arch, to the reservoir, where she landed, and dressed herself *en cavalier* in a thrice, sinking her nankeen dress and oil-skin cap (which had preserved her hair from being wet) in the pond, with heavy stones.

stones. Thence she flew swiftly across the meadows to the appointed place at the river, where was her lover, with two sailors in a little boat, who rowed them to a ship, in which he had taken a passage for himself and friend; they then put to sea with a prosperous gale, in company with a gentleman who was the lover's intimate friend, and whose unexpected presence filled him with the greatest joy.

'The morning after landing they were married, when the husband (into whose possession I had passed in the bundle over the convent wall) having secured his prize, (his excessive love having precluded every other consideration till then) began to reflect that he was dependant; and that it was absolutely necessary to deprecate the apprehended displeasure of his neglected aunt. For this purpose he had recourse to the mediation of his friend and fellow passenger, who undertook to wait upon her, to whom he was well known, being both of the Roman Catholic persuasion. Accordingly the very next morning, after their arrival at the metropolis, he went to her house, when I found myself in company with my former mistress, the mother of the minister, whose unfortunate nocturnal adventure with her son, I have related to you before.'

'The gentleman, like a skilful negociator, first smoothed the way, and opened the avenues of mercy for her nephew's precipitate conduct, awakening her affection by a recapitulation of the

the many virtues and amiable qualifications of which he stood possessed; pleading in excuse for his want of duty the uncommon beauty of the bride; and when he found in her softened passion, the symptoms of assured success, he set forth the absolute necessity of his seeming disrespect, by the cruel alternative he laboured under, of losing a wife (who could not fail of gaining her esteem as soon as known) or running the risk of her temporary anger, as the lady was in danger of soon being sequestered for ever from his sight, before her answer could arrive, to any application he should have made, by a speedy assumption of the veil, to take which, the lovely Lamentina was continually importuned.'

' If the mind of my old mistress had hitherto been occupied by resentment, it seemed to entertain sensations of a very different sort, at the name of Lamentina. Her complexion, which had undergone a succession of changes, suddenly exhibited the livery of death, a cold sweat bedewed her face, her eyes closed and she sunk lifeless in the pleader's arms. Her maid being summoned, and the usual means having restored her to herself, she attributed the shock she had undergone, to the violence of the contending tumult in her breast; occasioned by the unwelcome news she had received, which had, at her time of life, overcome the weakness of her nerves. At length she fixed on the evening

ing of the next day for the introduction of her nephew and niece.'

' On the departure of her visitor, the lady went to her closet, where in the course of her expressive grief, she discovered the pretended nephew and her protege were the wretched consequence of that fatal night, the events of which you have already heard. Thus the bridegroom and bride were brother and sister; their grandmother was their mother, their brother was their father, whose catastrophe, by the hand of the enthusiastic lieutenant, you have already heard. After undergoing the most violent agitations of horror and remorse, involved in perplexities and doubt, uncertain how to act, she sent for her confessor, in whom I recognized the person of the pardon-monger, that was stripped of his plunder, by virtue of the indulgence he had granted to his penitent himself. His journey to Rome being rendered abortive by his loss, he had bent his course to the country to which I had now returned, after my residence in the convent, where he had insinuated himself into the favour of his sect, so as to obtain promotion in the church, and at length became the spiritual director to persons of the highest rank, among whom my former mistress was one.'

' Having unbosomed herself to this worthy guardian of her soul, she asked his advice; he gave it as his opinion, that she should for ever conceal the secret in her own breast, as there was

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no person living who could divulge it to the world, though it was with the utmost difficulty he could reconcile her to her acquiescence in such a plan, by a strong display of the miseries she would entail upon the parties, and the disgrace a discovery would bring upon herself. The real motive of this conduct of the priest, was, that he might be the sole proprietor of a mystery from which some future advantage might arise.'

' At the time appointed, the new married couple were introduced by the friend of all parties, who having seen them in perfect harmony, took his leave, my former mistress having imposed on the husband, with a well concerted story of his wife's birth, representing her as the orphan daughter of a clandestine marriage; kept secret for the purpose of evading the consequences of paternal wrath, procured him a considerable post under government; they now would in all probability have passed their lives with credit in the world, and comfort to themselves, had they been permitted to remain in a happy state of ignorance with respect to their unfortunate and extraordinary births: but this was denied them, by means with which you shall be acquainted in its proper course.'

CHAP. XXV,

He relates the lamentable catastrophe of an unfortunate political peace offering.

‘ DURING my residence in Lisbon, I had been in the possession of a person whose singular merits, and the regards due to humanity and justice, should have exempted him from the fate he was about to undergo. The conclusion of a life equally beneficial to his country, in the closet or the field, on a scaffold, by an ignominious death. You will recollect the circumstance of one of the horseshoes picked up by the old woman, and nailed against her door, its great value being obscured by dirt; a great shower of rain having washed it clean, it attracted the notice of a sailor, who, as soon as it was dark, released me from confinement, and was proceeding to liquify me, not in the smelting pot, but in the more immediate gratification imbibed with cans of grog; when he was met by his officer, who, after a severe reprimand, took him into custody, and ordered him on board his ship, which was on the point of setting sail on a voyage of discovery, whence

whence great expectations of new acquired wealth were formed. The sailor to mitigate his lieutenant's wrath, presented me to him; he on his embarking, gave me to his captain and commander of the fleet, who, struck with the singularity of my form, amply recompensed the tar.'

X ' My master was one of those, who had upon very slight evidence, been convicted of a share in the conspiracy before related, in behalf of my royal mistress, to raise her to the throne. His great abilities in the Cabinet, his personal courage, and above all, his successful exertions to interrupt the commerce, and vigilant observations on the encroachments of that power, of which the count was an instrument, made him particularly odious thereto; he was also obnoxious to his own prince, having been one of those who had voted for the restrictions which were proposed to be laid on him, on his accession to the government.'

' But the execution of so popular a character, on the bare attestation of only one man, suspected to be surreptitiously obtained, was a work of too much danger to be performed by a prince, in whose favour the realm was not much prepossessed, in the commencement of his reign. He therefore suffered an imprisonment of many years, and at length owed his enlargement to the publication of a learned work, composed during his confinement, which procured that pardon from the royal pedant, his virtues never could obtain.—

When

X In Walter Raleigh

When he emerged from his prison he returned into a world to which he was an entire stranger; but he was still formidable to the state which had been the occasion of his long seclusion and disgrace. They were therefore determined to destroy him the very first opportunity that offered, and he was unfortunate enough to furnish them with one, which co-operating with the weakness and disappointed expectations of the prince, soon brought him to his end.'

' On his first outset in life, he had by his political conduct subjected himself to the machination of the Catholic powers, having made his first campaign to succour the distressed reformers of a neighbouring state after which, impelled by an enterprising genius, he engaged in expeditions to explore a climate, till then unknown; but had returned on account of some unforeseen obstacles, which prevented the completion of his grand designs. On his return, and conviction of being concerned in the plot, his long imprisonment, and confiscation of his estate, (for he had never received a pardon) threw him into a very embarrassed state; he knew not how to subsist, nor where to lay his head, and it was on these circumstances, his enemies erected their too successful scheme.'

' At the very time he was considering what course to take, he was accosted by a person who had been one of the companions of his former voyages, who told him he was just arrived

rived from the territory they had explored some years before, where he had discovered a wonderful mountain, under which was an invaluable mine of gold, at the same time producing as a specimen a lump of ore. That if he could but contrive to get the sovereign's authority to complete the discovery, he might not only be reinstated in his former favor, but gain such prodigious wealth as would amply compensate the loss of his estates. Induced by the pressure of continual want, the consequence of a partial profusion, in favour of undeserving men, the prince lent a willing ear to his request, and had already in his own mind disposed of the vast advantages to accrue therefrom.'

'A commission was accordingly made out, and my matter thereby stood in a very extraordinary predicament, as a person attainted for high treason, convicted on trial, his estates confiscated, at large, unpardoned, liable to a sentence of death, (which might at any time be pronounced upon him) and at the same time acting under the authority and licence of that very prince, against whom he had conspired, as commander of a fleet and army, for the express purpose of making depredations in undiscovered parts. But indeed the commission itself had been carefully prepared, so as to render him obnoxious, on two accounts: First, there was no provision whereby he was restrained from acts of hostility against the power in whose territory this visionary golden mountain lay; Secondly, there

was a purposed omission of the words, *Our trusty, well beloved, and faithful, &c.* in the direction of the commission.'

' In the mean time, precautions had been taken to embroil him, with the fellow subjects of those who wished his ruin; of this sufficient complaint was made on his return, with greater efficacy, as it was looked on, as an infringement of a treaty, of the utmost consequence then in agitation, between the respective states. But my master was, (though unwillingly) guilty of the most atrocious crime, which sealed his fate. This was, he returned without the necessary ingredient to gild his cause, to the utter disappointment of the prince's golden hopes. And indeed it was strange if he had obtained the object of his wish. The golden mountain, and the piece of ore, being a story and deception, fabricated by the crafty ingenuity of his inveterate foes, whose next step was, to exasperate him by their emissaries against their tool, so as to make him the instrument of his death, and rid themselves of one, who might have told some tales, as much to the advantage of their intended victim, as to the disadvantage of themselves: There was no difficulty in this; sufficiently chagrined, by the unprosperous issue of his voyage, he was greatly irritated against the principal instigator, of what he had terminated with such ill success, whom he threatened with such asperity to expose to the indignation of the prince, that the unhappy man, having made in-

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effectual

effectual attempts to destroy himself by a pistol, dispatched himself with a knife, which he thrust into his body to the hilt.

‘The instant my master arrived, before he had reached the metropolis, he was put under an arrest, and reconveyed to that prison, whence he was liberated two years before: There was a difficulty however still attending his condemnation; he could not be tried on any impeachment, grounded on the circumstances of his late expedition, as he had an express commission for the purpose: Recourse therefore, was had to the conviction already mentioned, of fourteen years preceding date: and to the everlasting disgrace of the annals of the realm, he was called down to suffer for a dubious crime, never fully proved to have been committed at the time: Timid, weak, irresolute, and supine, the indolent and dastardly monarch, sacrificed him as a peace offering at the shrine of policy, avarice and fear.’

C H A P. XXVI.

An Account of a dignified Broker, and the extraordinary Trade he carried on.

‘O N the execution of my master I had been stolen, sold, coined, and negotiated, till I had passed through the hands of various persons ; among others, one, who though dignified with a title, was in fact a broker, that dealt in articles as profitable in their sale, as they were extraordinary in their kind ; though he transacted business by commission and not upon his own account, being only the ostensible channel, through which the trade was carried on, by an association, who boldly at second hand, sold honours, places, and all profitable stations, military or civil, ecclesiastical or temporal, in church or state, for a stipulated sum to be immediately disbursed, or for a certain annual pension, to be paid out of the salaries arising therefrom. The society, who stiled themselves *projectors*, were an ever watchful junto, studying with the most indefatigable assiduity, to raise supplies for the indiscriminating prodigality of the imprudent prince, continually in want.’

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‘ My master was the descendant of an ancient family, in which was a title, that had lain dormant several years ; as he was in reduced circumstances, (having been heavily fined for corruption) he would in all probability, never have made his claim, had it not been for an accident which at once rescued him from an indigent obscurity, and enabled him to enjoy his dignity with competence and ease. Standing up on account of a shower one night, in the porch of a handsome house, at the court end of the town, as he leaned his back against the door, it opened, and he had nearly fallen into the passage : It was midnight, no attendants were in the way, and his curiosity was engaged to listen to a conversation, he overheard carrying on in the parlour as follows.’

“ I tell you, my lord, it does not signify, the treasurer must be removed, though he did give twenty thousand pounds for his place last year. There is the merchant I told you of, now in the customs, is ready to give thirty thousand ; besides we must have him among us, you know he suggested that excellent plan of the monopolies, which you may remember, brought in such an immense sum ; “ What says your ladyship !—— “ Certainly,” replied a female voice, “ It is impossible we can supply the prince’s demands by the bare disposition of places, without dismissions, and fines for mal-administration.”——“ Please your ladyship,” said another voice, “ That cannot be the case here, you know he has had the

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post but a year, and has been *so clear in his great office* that there is not the least pretence for accusation whereon to ground a fine. What effect *honours, (I mean titles,)* may have, I cannot say." —“ Let him be founded, said the female, in the way of resignation; he shall be made a baron, viscount, and earl immediately, gratis, and set in the gilt chair, at the council. I'll speak to my son about it to-morrow.”—

“ Your ladyship every moment gives us fresh cause to admire your wisdom, penetration, and address.”—said a voice which had not been heard before.—“ Your motion for founding Sir Henry (who by the by is in our debt, on account of the chief-justice(hip) recalls my attention to a hint, which was started at our last debate.—To provide a proper agent for our various regulations, now suffering great inconvenience and loss, from the diffusive manner in which they are carried on; besides the odium and risk your ladyship runs the danger of incurring in every sale we make, every fine we levy, every pension we receive, and every title that is bought. “ True,” replied the lady, “ He must be some needy gentleman, that we can dignify without reproach, one whose character is unimpeached, assiduous, diligent, and faithful. One, who not only provides us customers for our *good things*, but of so insinuating an address, that he could upon occasion, wind himself into the confidence of those actually in possession, either by purchase or merit, and intice

them

them into some act of delinquency, to justify a removal, and consequently another sale. Look out for such a one, if such a one there is, but where can we find him?"——

"Behold him here," said my master, as he entered the room, to the utter astonishment and discomposure of all therein, "be not alarmed, in my breast your secret is safe. I, or at least my family and pretensions, are not unknown to you; if I am so happy as to be employed, there will need no new creation to dignify your choice; the dormant title I can claim may be revived, your orders shall be implicitly obeyed, and you may depend on my assiduity and care." He then entered into a disquisition on the nature of the business he was to conduct, when he gave them such convincing proofs of his abilities, in the act of raising the necessary supplies pointing out various funds, of which they had never entertained the least idea, that they immediately closed with his proposal.'

'In consequence of this coalition, he claimed, and was invested with his title, and a profitable post to maintain the dignity thereof; while the public groaned under his exactions, and his employers themselves were astonished at the rapid accumulation of their wealth. Thus the faithful secretary to this extraordinary committee of ways and means, like a vast sponge, sucked up the stream that flowed from bribery and corruption's

source ;

source ; yet taking care when he was squeezed, to retain sufficient moisture on his own account ; an office in which he was by experience a perfect adept, having been employed in this extraordinary service once before.'

C H A P. XXVII.

He falls into the hands of an old acquaintance — The wretched consequence of a former adventure. — The Demon is interrupted by a summons from the superior powers.

‘IT was some time after this event, that I once more entered into the service of the pardon-monger whom I last mentioned as the confessor of the minister’s mother, when he advised her to conceal the relation, in which the couple, with whom I came over from Lisbon, stood to each other. The sole presumptive repository of a secret, known only to himself, (their mother being dead) he assumed such an unreasonable degree of authority in the family, where he was constituted chaplain and spiritual director, that his arrogance and presumption could not fail of giving his principals disgust; but this was not all, he burnt with the most ungovernable and unjustifiable passion for the young bride, whom at all events he determined to assail.’

* Exasperated by the contempt he met with in his cruel and infamous attempt, he dropt hints, that it was in his power to interrupt the course of that boasted happiness she enjoyed ; and which, (among other objections) she had urged to the abandoned friar, to induce him to desist.'

* Finding his libidinous desires were not only treated with the reproach they deserved, but in danger of being exposed, the lady having threatened to unfold him to her husband, that he might vindicate himself from any aspersions of infidelity to her, (at which she imagined the priest hinted) a malicious spirit of revenge succeeded to flagitious lust, and he vowed to sacrifice them to his vindictive wrath. But the disclosure of a secret, revealed under the seal of confession, was what would render him liable to a punishment, the hazard of incurring which, he did not chuse to run.'

* The lady before she died, had delivered him an affecting narrative of the whole affair, written with her own hand. This he immediately sent to Rome, and represented to the Pope, that he began to be troubled in mind, as a tacit accessory to the crimes of incest. That on mature reflection, he was sensible he had been guilty of a heinous offence, in acquiescing so long in silence, to the cohabitation of the miserable pair ; for which he should inflict a voluntary penance on himself. In the mean time as he was harrowed up by the stings of a tormenting conscience which deprived his afflicted soul of rest, he entreated his Holiness's direction how to act.'

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‘ The sovereign pontiff was somewhat puzzled on the receipt of this memorial. As nothing was unknown to him respecting the characters and transactions of the ecclesiastical tribe, that swarmed throughout his then extensive jurisdiction, he was sufficiently acquainted with those of my master, to know the present discovery could not be owing either to the dictates of religion or remorse ; and had the affair come before him in any other way, he might possibly have granted a dispensation, in compassion to the singular misfortunes of the unhappy parties concerned, whose cruel separation was to be the consequence of an accidental crime, of which they were ignorant themselves.’

‘ But well acquainted with the inveterate rancour, and determined resolution of the dissembling priest, there was no alternative to chuse ; he therefore sent him a brief, wherein after severely reprimanding him, for his long concealment of his penitent’s destructive state, he enjoined him to effect an immediate separation, on pain of some singular marks of divine vengeance in this world, and everlasting perdition in that which is to come.’

‘ Armed with this instrument of revenge, from a power which formerly delegated to a feeble member of the Roman church, could have shaken the majesty of distant thrones, my master repaired instantly to the parties it concerned. To give an adequate description to the scene that ensued,

ensued, is impossible, suffice it to say, that my master having produced the posthumous testimony of the facts, pronounced sentence of eternal separation, with all the asperity of irritated malice and disappointed craft; in consequence of which the lady, who was far advanced in her pregnancy, fell into dreadful convulsions, in which she soon expired.'

'The husband, frantic with grief at the sudden and unexpected destruction of his beloved wife and child, and exasperated at the priest, on account of his cruel precipitation, in the disclosure of their cruel fate, and the inhuman triumph so apparent in his exulting mien, snatching a carving knife from the sideboard, plunged it into his heart, and ran raving into the street, the bloody weapon in his hand; here he was soon seized, and being conducted back, was on discovery of the bodies of my master and his wife, immediately carried before a magistrate.

But the seat of reason was disturbed, his senses were dislodged, and all recollection of the past was fled, he stared wildly round him, endeavouring to speak, gasped as if for breath, then fell a lifeless corpse upon the floor. Confounded at so strange a scene, the bench were in the utmost consternation and dilemma how to act, when some of the officers arrived with the mother's narrative and the pontiff's brief, that soon explained the whole, and filled them with an awful horror, at the dreadful circumstances which had occasioned,

occasioned the bloody catastrophe, and sad compassion for their unhappy fate.—I shall now'——

Here the demon suddenly discontinued his narrative, 'I am summoned,' says he, 'it is our jubilee, a kind of carnival, when every spirit must appear, and those, who in my unhappy situation, labour under the sentence of our court, enjoy a temporary relaxation from the troubles to which they are condemned.—Adieu, it lasts only a space, which by you is called a month; if no new disposition of my spiritual essence is ordained, I will visit you again. Preserve my habitation if you wish me to return. Adieu." On this the spirit evacuated the room, with a noise like the rushing of the wind, from the enormous bellows of the Cyclopean forge.

F I N I S.

